

Kurt Kauffman, capital finance director in the Office of Budget Management, explained the reasoning behind using certificates of participation, or COPs, rather than traditional bonds to fund the new devices.

"COPs are essentially a bond by another name," he said.

The state suggested using COPs instead of bonds because it allows for them to be narrowly tailored to the lifespan of voting machines, he said. Because voting machines have a lifespan of 8-10 years, as opposed to the much longer lifespan of other capital items, 20-year bonds aren't practical.

The state has used COPs in the past for software and information technology projects, such as the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System and the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System.

Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) asked if there were any concerns about the state holding the ownership of the voting machines instead of the counties.

While ownership would only go to the counties in full after the COPs are paid off, the purchase agreements would detail the responsibilities of the counties holding the machines, Mr. Kauffman said.

Other state IT projects have been financed in an 8-10-year range, he said.

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) said the debt service would be appropriated to the secretary of state as the owner of the machines. He asked if the funding would count against the state's debt load.

Mr. Kauffman said the COPs are backed only by the payments and do not count as state debt.

Ed Leonard, director of the Franklin County Board of Elections, was among the county officials to voice support for the proposal, saying it would help the counties replace aging and progressively troublesome voting equipment.

It requires the Department of Administrative Services to work with a panel of experts to negotiate with voting machine suppliers, he noted.

"Smaller counties will receive the benefit of state negotiated prices and be able to take advantage of state contracting policies without going through the expense of writing and evaluating requests for proposals," Mr. Leonard said. "Like the recent procurement with electronic poll book vendors, large counties will still be able to negotiate bulk discounts off the state list price."

Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) asked how the improvements in technology have affected accuracy.

The paper ballot gives voters the confidence that their ballot has been filled out correctly, while some voters are more comfortable with touchscreen devices, Mr. Leonard said.

"They are both very accurate systems," he said.

Tim Ward, director of the Madison County Board of Elections and co-chair of the Ohio Association of Election Officials legislative committee, said election equipment has typically been funded at the county level, except for the recent investment in electronic poll books.

"While we would have hoped that the federal government would have stepped forward and provided some level of assistance, it is now clear that such action will not be forthcoming," he said. "We are glad that the state legislature has recognized that every level of government has a responsibility to provide for the critical infrastructure of our democracy, just the same as they do for the critical infrastructure of our roads and bridges."

Union County Commissioner Gary Lee said the proposal would help ensure fair and accurate elections.

"The bill that is before you today is a big step for the state to fulfill its obligation as an election partner with Ohio's counties," he said. "County commissioners believe that the state should provide some additional funds to counties because there will be significant costs associated with the implementation and training staff and poll workers."

Greg Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute, said the think tank supports the idea of using state funds for new voting machines, but that the capital budget, not a separate vehicle, is more appropriate for the expenditure.

"Funding for voting machines should have been included in the capital budget, and to the extent that a separate mechanism, such as SB135, is used instead, then the capital budget should be off-set by the corresponding amount in order to maintain longer-term spending balance," he said.

ODNR Plugs Expanded License Options, Other Changes To Encourage More Hunting, Fishing

Sportsmen and women would be able to buy multi-year or lifetime hunting and fishing licenses under legislation detailed Tuesday in the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee.

The package of law changes backed by the Department of Natural Resources ([HB 518](#)) was described by administration officials and its bipartisan sponsors as a "common-sense" approach to generating more interest and participation in the outdoor activities available in Ohio.

ODNR Director James Zehringer said the agency has taken several steps in recent years to improve customer service and access to Ohio's resources, such as an electronic system for license purchases. The legislation sponsored by [Rep. Jonathan Dever](#) (R-Cincinnati) and [Rep. Jack Cera](#) (D-Bellaire) stems from ongoing efforts to further stimulate sporting activities based on part on the experiences of other states, he said.

The director cited statistics showing that while fishing activity has increased nationally in recent years, hunting participation "has experienced a different turn."

"From 2011 to 2016, participation has dropped by about 2 million participants, and total hunter participation is at around 11.5 million," he said, citing a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study. "Total expenditures by hunters have also declined. From 2011 to 2016, there has been a decrease of 29 percent, taking the \$36.3 billion dollar industry to \$25.6 billion."

"These national trends impact Ohio, and it is important that we address these issues before such decreases become paralyzing to Ohio's economy," Director Zehringer said.

"At this point in time, the ODNR Division of Wildlife is stable, and we are able to operate as a division, while better serving the sportsmen and women of Ohio. However, we need new, innovative ideas that will retain our current customer base while also recruiting new participants. We believe this proposed legislation will address these previously mentioned concerns as we focus to strengthen the three R's of wildlife management: Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation."

To that end, the bill contains several proposals aimed not only at increasing hunter and fisher participation in the state but also bolstering revenue for the ODNR Division of Wildlife.

Division Chief Mike Miller and the bill sponsors briefed the committee on the numerous provisions in the package. They include language to:

- Create three-year, five-year and lifetime hunting and fishing licenses. The latter option for both activities would cost \$415 for youth, \$450 for residents aged 18-66; and \$81 for residents 66 and older, according to agency officials.
- Make fishing licenses valid for one year from the date of purchase. Current law states that fishing licenses are only valid from the first day of March of the current year and expire the last day of February the

following year.

- Grant the division chief discretion in requiring fishing licenses to better accommodate veterans and those with disabilities.
- Require nonresidents to obtain a Lake Erie fishing permit during the walleye spawning season.
- Expand the apprentice hunting license by allowing people to hunt as apprentices as long as they are accompanied by a licensed hunter who has completed the hunter education course.
- Create a new senior apprentice hunting license.
- Allow people with disabilities to hunt with non-electric all-purpose vehicle on both private and public land.
- Permit non-resident youth to hunt at the resident youth price.
- Give the division chief the ability to create license packages, such as a husband and wife option.

Mr. Miller said the licensing changes follow reviews of other states' options. He described Ohio as being in the "bottom 25%" of states when it comes to providing license variety.

"We looked at other states around the United States that have implemented similar multi-year licenses and overall found very positive results. In Pennsylvania, during the implementation of their multi-year fishing license, they increased revenue by \$1.5 million dollars and sold 64,000 more licenses over a three-year period," he said.

Responding to a question from Rep. Michael O'Brien (D-Warren), the division chief said the ODNR fiscal office estimates the changes will result in a revenue boost ranging from about \$356,000 to more than \$1 million a year depending on the level of increased participation.

"We do not believe this to be a revenue-decreasing proposition," Mr. Miller said.

"With the expectation that these new licensing options will create additional revenue, we wanted to make sure that these funds are used for the appropriate purposes. As a result, we have created the multi-year license fund," he said.

"These funds will continue to help maintain best wildlife management practices while benefiting the sportsmen and women of Ohio. All proceeds from the multi-year and lifetime hunting and fishing licenses will be held in this new fund and distributed in the appropriate years."

Mr. Miller told Chairman Rep. Al Landis (R-Dover) that in developing the new fund the agency worked with the federal government to ensure compliance with the Pittman-Robertson Act and Dingell-Johnson Act so the state would continue to receive reimbursements under those laws.

Responding to other questions from the chair, Mr. Miller said the bill doesn't address agency "bricks-and-mortar" issues, although an ad-hoc group is discussing improvements to state firing ranges, and non-resident property owners would still have to purchase licenses. He also said ODNR had not discussed limiting horsepower on all-terrain vehicles that could be used by disabled individuals under the bill.

Rep. James Hoops (R-Napoleon), citing his familiarity with ODNR-related initiatives, asked the agency officials if lawmakers should expect groups to express opposition to the bill.

Director Zehringer said given the provisions are improvements that "should have been done years ago," he can't imagine anyone complaining.

Some groups, in fact, relayed their support Tuesday in testimony that followed the sponsor and agency presentations.

Among them were Chris and Melissa Skrant, owners of the Medina-based guide company Flyway Outdoors. Mr. Skrant cited clients from numerous out-of-state destinations that have come to Ohio to hunt and fish.

"We are here to support a bill that provides more licensing options, and will improve the services provided by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, not just to those who reside here, but to those who choose Ohio to spend their time and money hunting in our state," he said.

"We need to remove any obstacle, in our power, that restricts people from joining us whether they are an avid hunter or this is their first experience. One of the most commonly experienced issue we have dealt with involves clients trying to purchase their Federal Waterfowl Stamp and they are told by the associate of the licensing agent that "no such thing exists". With this bill, the Ohio Division of Wildlife might be able to create a waterfowl package, streamlining the whole purchase process for all involved and eliminate incidents such as this, and other license options."

Mr. Skrant also expressed support for the multi-year license options and the use of gas-powered ATVs for the disabled.

Stephen Coulter, president of the Ohio Bass Federation, relayed how he has fished and hunted in the state and elsewhere for years. He said Ohio has some of the best walleye and bass fishing in the nation.

"When I first started purchasing out-of-state licenses I was amazed that some states offered multi-year and lifetime license packages to their residents," he said. "I often wondered why Ohio did not do this."

"In July 2017, I was asked to meet with Chief Mike Miller and other executives of the ODNR in Columbus. I was asked what I thought about raising certain non-resident license fees and multi-year/lifetime licenses." He said he told the officials, "It's about time."

Responding to a question from Rep. Landis, Mr. Coulter said the cost of licenses for non-residents was too low.

Rep. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) asked whether raising those process would dissuade people from hunting and fishing in the state and hurt tourism.

Mr. Coulter said it could have a small impact, but he added that some large outfitters who lease land for hunting in the state don't live in Ohio.

Written proponent testimony was provided by David Hart, co-founder of the Blue Skies for Good Guys and Gals Warrior Foundation, and citizen Mike Patterson, who wrote in support of the ATV provision on behalf of a friend with Multiple Sclerosis.

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the [committee's website](#) under March 20.

Sports Teams Back 'Win-Win' Grant Proposal For Major Events

Representatives of Ohio's biggest sports teams packed a House committee Tuesday to support restructuring a grant fund intended to attract major sporting events.

The legislation ([HB 531](#)) would change how the organizations that sponsor events such as professional all-star games, drafts and tournaments would receive financial help from the state. The fund originally targeted events expected to bring more than \$250,000 in additional state sales tax revenue.

Backers told the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee that the proposal would take the funding of event grants out of the biennial budget process, instead giving the organizing group half of the incremental state sales tax revenue from the event to covert certain eligible expenses.

Sports commissions and teams called the proposal a "win-win."

"The program we're advocating will help keep our cities strongly competitive when pursuing these events," said David Gilbert, president and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.

Mr. Gilbert said his group and the Greater Columbus Sports Commission have attracted hundreds of events to Columbus and Cleveland since 2000, totaling more than \$570 million in economic activity.

Linda Logan, executive director of the Columbus group, said the legislation includes reporting requirements. The event must be projected to provide \$250,000 more in state sales tax according to a formula used by the Development Services Agency.

It would provide comfort to communities looking to host events a few years out, knowing there would be funding available from the state to offset the costs of hosting the event.

"It does help us actually make the decision to bid on them," he said.

Melissa Wideman, vice president of community relations for Castellini Management Company, testified in support on behalf of Bob Castellini, owner and CEO of the Cincinnati Reds.

The 2015 Major League Baseball All-Star Game hosted by Cincinnati generated nearly \$70 million in economic impact, she said.

The grant program has historically been financed by the General Revenue Fund, she said. That means it sometimes does not have funding, as it didn't when Cincinnati was planning the all-star game in 2014.

"While the state graciously allocated funds late that year, creating a long-term funding mechanism as proposed in HB531 would provide the predictability that Major League Baseball demands when considering where to host the All-Star Game and the World Baseball Classic," she said.

Jeff Berding, president and general manager of FC Cincinnati, said Cincinnati has been short listed as one of the potential host cities in North America for a bid for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Cincinnati is also a finalist for the 2019 Gold Cup, a tournament featuring 16 national teams from North America, Central America and the Caribbean.

"The World Cup is the world's largest sporting event in terms of both attendance and viewership. HB531 would be a valuable tool in Ohio's toolbox to compete against Texas, New York/New Jersey, Illinois, and Florida," he said.

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) asked about the mechanics of the grant program.

"How do we determine whether the projection turned out to be true, for purposes of calculating the 50% that goes into this fund versus the 50% that goes to the state?" he asked.

Mr. Berding said event organizers know they would sell tickets and hotel rooms for events, and many of those are done in packages. The purchase of other products can be more difficult to measure, he said. DSA has a formula for calculating the additional revenue and economic impact.

Dave Jenkins, executive vice president and chief financial officer for the Cleveland Browns, said the approach of contributing half of the tax revenue resulting from events to the grant fund is a "win-win" by ensuring some revenue goes to the state while the rest goes back to the host.

The Browns, along with the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission and the Pro Football Hall of Fame, are bidding to host the 2019 or 2020 NFL draft.

"In my opinion, the passage of HB531 would strengthen our bid and increase the likelihood that the NFL draft, one of the largest sporting events in the country, will be held in Northeast Ohio within the next two years," he said.

Joe Savarise, executive director of the Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association, said entities around the state are already bidding for events several years in the future. The new mechanism also wouldn't put money at risk, as event organizers would only receive funding if the event generates additional tax revenue.

"HB531 will create a long-term funding mechanism for this critical economic development program," he said. "The way that it would contribute half of the incremental state sales tax increase will hold local governments harmless."

Michael Priest, president of the Columbus Blue Jackets, said Columbus hosted the NHL All-Star Game in 2015, providing a boost to the local economy and millions of dollars in direct economic impact. At the time, there was no funding available through the major sporting event grant program.

"This resulted in a considerable challenge to raise the funds we had anticipated receiving from the state as a part of the bid package," he said. "Without this type of state support in the future, we would have to take a hard look at whether to host another similar event."

Teams view the events as ways to connect with the community, not as money-making enterprises, he said.

Yuko Calls For No Delays In Medical Marijuana Implementation

With some attempting to slow the implementation of Ohio's medical marijuana program, one lawmaker on Tuesday called for it to move full speed ahead.

The program, which is scheduled to be fully rolled out on Sept. 8, is too important to too many people to be put on hold for any reason, Sen. Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) said during a Statehouse news conference.



Sen. Yuko

"We realize that the end result is that we want to help our children, we want to help our veterans, we want to help the elderly," he said.

The news conference comes in the midst of calls for an audit of the licensing program and lawsuits filed over the issue. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 22, 2018)

Sen. Yuko said if additional licenses need to be awarded, that should be done to ensure that the program goes online on schedule. He also said he has drafted legislation to award additional licenses if that is deemed necessary.

"The time is now. We can't really wait any longer," he said, noting there has been a two-year period to get the program up and running.

Sen. Yuko was flanked by individuals he said will benefit immensely from medical marijuana. One of those was Nicole Scholten's daughter, Lucy, who suffers from cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

Lucy, she said, has hundreds of small seizures daily.

"They interrupt learning, living, relationship building," she said.

Ms. Scholten said for 14 years, she has tried different medications to control her daughter's seizures.

"Each new medication that she trialed came with more horrible side effects than the one before it," she said.

In addition to what Mr. Yuko described as "roadblocks" to the program, Ms. Scholten detailed concerns she called on lawmakers to address, including a potential lack of participation by doctors and medical systems, lack

of access in rural areas and school district refusal to administer the medication.

"The sick people in Ohio that are waiting for access to cannabis therapy deserve the program to move forward swiftly," she said.

Alyssa Baker said she has been illegally medicating with marijuana to deal with chronic pain after he doctor took her off of methadone.

"It is the only thing that allows me to get up here and be able to do this," she said.

Part of the outcry over the licensing process surrounds the fact that a member of the group that scored applications has a previous drug conviction.

But Sen. Yuko said the needs of patients should be put before any concerns about the scoring process for awarding licenses.

"We fought too long," he said. "We fought too hard and I fell in love with too many families all throughout Ohio."

Witnesses: Suspensions, Expulsions Impair Child Development

A proposal to limit out-of-school suspensions for students through third grade would help improve overall student performance by helping them rather than holding them back, backers told a Senate panel Tuesday.

The legislation ([SB 246](#)) would keep children in school except in violent or other serious cases and develop a framework for providing positive interventions for students, supporters told the Senate Finance Committee during the measure's third hearing.

Lynanne Gutierrez, policy and advocacy associate at Groundwork Ohio, said a change in school culture is needed to better meet the needs of children and position them for success.

Students who are suspended or expelled as young children are less prepared to learn and are more likely to fall behind, she said.

"There are many important and contributing factors to why some kids are more often left behind than others, however, understanding the impact of trauma in a child's life is critical," she said.

Ohio students are more likely to experience childhood trauma than the national average - a problem exacerbated by the state's opioid crisis, she said.

"The SAFE Act is the change in school culture required to better meet the needs of all Ohio children by supporting schools in preparing teachers and other school professionals to be armed with the knowledge, skills and resources to better respond to the unique needs of Ohio's most at-risk kids," she said.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) asked how other states address racial disparities in suspensions and expulsions, to which Ms. Gutierrez replied that other states and some local communities have made sincere efforts to work toward equity.

"If children aren't given a fair shot then we are dooming them to a life of poverty and a life of poor education," Sen. Tavares said.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) asked Ms. Gutierrez if she would support an amendment to clarify that in-school suspensions are an option for schools to deal with students who are causing a distraction.

Ms. Gutierrez said the proposal already allows schools to do so if the student remains in a learning environment.

Ashley Richardson Butler, staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati, said the measure would help students stay in school.

She told Sen. Coley any change to clarify the allowability of in-school suspensions should make clear it must be a learning environment.

Darold Johnson, legislative director for the Ohio Federation of Teachers, also testified in support of the plan, saying suspension should be rare and reserved for serious offenses.

"By focusing on improving social emotional learning and training teachers and students how to deal with a traumatic situation in a positive way in the early grades the hope is we will lay the foundation of learning and behavior so there are fewer reasons to suspend students in later grades," he said.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) said the idea of limiting suspensions and expulsions is growing around the country.

"I expected a lot of pushback from teachers saying 'don't tell us one more thing we need to do,' and I've seen just the opposite," she said.

Teachers are looking ways to de-escalate classroom problems, but they need resources, Mr. Johnson said.

Sen. Tavares said the proposal would bring new, advanced approaches to dealing with problems.

"We can't keep acting as if we have a 1950s classroom," she said.

The state needs to integrate services better into schools, such as better connecting schools and Medicaid for behavioral health and vision care, Mr. Johnson said.

"To be truly effective, we have to look holistically," he said.

Ashon McKenzie, policy director for the Children's Defense Fund-Ohio, testified that many out-of-school suspension and expulsions were given to economically disadvantaged students, and for non-violent behaviors.

"While our zero tolerance provisions and the resulting school culture and climate were intended to improve the quality and safety of our schools, today's better research and data shows that those approaches are counterproductive. And today's research supports the approaches found in SB246," he said.

Other problems the state faces, such as low birth weights, preterm births and childhood trauma, reveal themselves as classroom disruptions, he said.

"The way we handle discipline for our most vulnerable children will have long-term consequences creating a pipeline from our cradles to our juvenile justice facilities and prisons or leading our children on the pathway to resilience, achievement, and preparation to contribute to our state and our economy," he said.

Shawn Henry, executive director of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, said positive behavioral interventions can help improve student outcomes, including discipline, behavior and academics.

The most important part of the framework is to provide positive reinforcement and create a positive environment for all students, he said.

"What this framework does is it turns it around from the child being blamed to the child being understood," he said.

Tweaked Mandatory Bindover Bill Garners Support From Judges, Others

Nearly a dozen individuals called on a House Tuesday panel to move legislation that would end the practice of mandatory bindovers for juveniles facing certain offenses.

The practice was briefly ended in Ohio due to a December 2016 Ohio Supreme Court ruling. However, when two new justices took to the bench in 2017, the court reversed the previous ruling. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2017)

Prior to hearing testimony, the House Criminal Justice Committee in a party-line vote accepted a substitute bill (HB 349) offered by Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) that, among other things, modifies the circumstances in which a discretionary serious youthful offender disposition may be imposed. (Comp doc)

Under the latest version, an SYO disposition could be imposed in cases of aggravated murder, murder or an attempt of either if the child was age 10 or older at the time of the act. Those age 16 or 17 would also be eligible in the case of a first-degree felony with certain aggravating circumstances.

Pickaway County Common Pleas Court Judge Jan Michael Long, testifying on behalf of the Ohio Judicial Conference, lamented voting for the mandatory bindover law as a member of the Senate.

"I've had an opportunity over two decades now to thoroughly understand the difference in the juvenile justice system," he said.

Judge Long also said the reconsidered ruling opened the door for legislative changes.

"Like the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio Judicial Conference respects the authority of the General Assembly to set public policy on this issue," he said. "But we request that you consider allowing judges to exercise their discretion on who does or does not belong in the adult criminal justice system."

Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Elizabeth Gill said since January 2007 she has presided over 510 cases involving discretionary or mandatory bindovers. Those cases involved 305 juveniles, 85% of whom were black.

"I have mandatorily bound over youth who only days or weeks before their impulsive actions would have been a discretionary bindover but for the passing of their 16th birthday. Left with no discretion, I have had to bind over young African-American men with little to no prior juvenile justice involvement therein contributing to the racial and ethnic disparities of the adult criminal justice system," she said.

"While none of us have a crystal ball, we have learned the importance of making data-driven decisions, we have brain development and mental health science advancements and we have validated tools to guide us towards very intentional decision."

Nikola Nable-Juris with the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth testified in favor of provisions in the bill that would codify a U.S. Supreme Court decision that found life without the possibility of parole to be unconstitutional for the vast majority of juvenile offenders.

She said it costs \$2.5 million to incarcerate a child for the duration of his or her life.

"Youth should be held responsible for their actions, especially for serious crimes, and the parole board should ensure that they are fully rehabilitated before being eligible for release. However, no teenager should be destined to die in prison with no opportunity for reviews," she said.

Niki Clum, legislative liaison of the Ohio Public Defender's Office, said the bill is all about providing judges with more discretion.

The legislation, she said, "allows juvenile judges to make the substantive decision whether a youth will be tried as an adult for certain offense, requiring an amenability hearing before transfer."

"It will also allow juvenile court judges to decide whether a juvenile charged as a serious youth offender should receive a blended juvenile-adult sentence."

Former high court Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger authored the high court's original ruling. She said in written testimony that the legislation would not compromise public safety or be "soft on crime."

"Artificial mandates for transfer will disappear and decisions on the proper jurisdiction for a case will remain with the judge who is most likely to understand the intricacies of a situation," she wrote. "A judge may always find a juvenile unamenable after a hearing and may choose to transfer the case to common pleas court. The judge would no longer be prevented from full consideration of a juvenile case."

The panel also received proponent testimony from representatives of the Ohio Conservative Juvenile Justice Network and the Case Western Reserve University Schubert Center for Child Studies.

Bail Bonds Industry Warns Of Increased Costs To Revamp System

The bail bond industry on Tuesday expressed strong opposition to a measure aimed at overhauling the state's bail system.

Charles Miller, president of the Ohio Bail Agents Association, said the legislation ([HB 439](#)) will lead to "get-out-of-jail-free" cards for hundreds of suspected Ohio criminals "because of an unproven risk assessment tool" it proposes.

"While some will argue that using a mathematical equation may remove bias, it also takes common sense and experience out of the equation," he said in testimony to the House Criminal Justice Committee. "The tools rely on the information provided by the defendant, which is not always accurate or complete. In addition, algorithms created for the tools merely take into consideration a defendant's criminal history, not their current crime nor their long-term failure to appear history."

Mr. Miller, one of three members of the group to offer testimony, said other states that have overhauled their bail systems have ended up sending dangerous criminals right back into the community. Eleven states have rejected similar legislation, he said.

"We don't even have to go to another state - we only need to look at our own Lucas County where this system is being piloted," he said. "In Lucas County, the failure to appear rate has climbed to estimates in the 40% range. In my business, the rate is less than 8%. That's because I have a very personal, very real incentive to ensure they appear in court and to ensure justice is served."

Asked by [Rep. Bill Seitz](#) (R-Cincinnati) about the 40% figure, Mr. Miller said it came from court documents in a federal case.

Theodore Owens, vice president of investigations for the Ohio Association of Security & Investigative Services, said the legislation will put a greater strain on law enforcement agencies.

"Without our assistance, the state of Ohio and local municipalities will be forced to try to squeeze their manpower and budgets to find the resources to carry out this important and critical work," he said. "I think this legislation will be a big mistake - and have a negative impact on Ohio's law enforcement, judicial process, economy and most importantly, the innocent victims of crimes in our state."

Rick Nagel, director of government affairs for City Bonding in Cleveland, echoed those sentiments, saying the bail bond industry is responsible for guaranteeing to courts more than \$16 billion in liabilities.

"Commercial bail helps to mitigate costs to the system," he said. "On rare occasions, when a defendant fails to appear, because their release was guaranteed through a bond, the courts and communities are compensated for the full amount of the bond."

John Handler, owner of Handler Bail Bonds and president of the Ohio Bail Bonds Association, said the current pre-trial assessments used by courts are adequate, citing 2011 legislation (HB86, 129th General Assembly). It required a magistrate to consult with pre-trial services in setting a bond.

"Pre-trial services then informs the magistrate of their finding related to any interview conducted with the defendant, the defendant's previous record, determined risk level, as well as whether or not they are eligible for a personal recognizance bond," he said. "In addition, it called for a state-developed risk assessment tool that could be uniformly used by all counties, not multiple tools that could cause problems with uniform statewide data and multicounty defenders."

Tony Sylvester, one of four members of the Ohio Professional Bail Association to testify, downplayed the ability of electronic monitoring to prevent someone from reoffending during the pretrial period.

The cost alone, he said, would be more than the average bond.

"The simple truth is that the monitors are only as good as the technology and personnel behind it," Mr. Sylvester said. "While it is true that GPS ankle monitoring does keep tabs on a defendant 24 hours a day, the court is generally only open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Violations that take place on the evenings or on the weekends will not be seen by court staff until the next business day."

However, Lance Lemmonds of the Faith & Freedom Coalition said that the legislation will save Ohioans millions of dollars per year.

That contention, though, was questioned in testimony offered by Lou Tobin, executive director of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, and Rocky River Municipal Court Judge Brian Hagan in interested party testimony.

Judge Hagan said the data collection provision in the bill will have a major impact on courts and their staff.

"Many courts simply do not have the personnel, funding, or space to accommodate the bill's mandates," he said in testimony representing the Ohio Judicial Conference. "Additionally, the data sought would likely vary in format and reporting method from court to court."

The panel also received opponent testimony from the Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association and the American Bail Coalition.

Debate Continues Over Bill To Require Licensing For Commercial Roofing Contractors

Stakeholder groups continued to be at odds Tuesday over legislation to require licensure for commercial roofing contractors.

It was the measure's fourth hearing before the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee, and various facets of the industry continue to be divided over the plan ([HB 164](#)) from [Rep. Tom Patton](#) (R-Strongsville).

In one corner, representatives from the Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Columbus contractor Able Roof said the plan could drive up consumer costs and add needless bureaucratic layers to the profession.

But the Ohio Roofing Contractors Association, in supporting the proposal, accused past opponents of misrepresenting the bill and the association's position.

Dan Moore, Able Roof's executive vice president, said the bill would create additional red tape and expenses, prompting some subcontractor entities to exit the market and reducing the number of available partners for companies like Able.

Andrew Martinez, a member of the Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and board member for the Columbus Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, agreed the bill could harm small businesses that perform commercial roofing services.

"The industry is already heavily regulated, and this bill is simply too vague in its requirements of the contractors to obtain licensing, in educational background, in the fees associated," he said. "It creates an increase in expenses for additional bureaucracy."

But Fred Horner, president of Advanced Industrial Roofing and president of the Ohio Roofing Contractors Association, said previous opponent testimonies presented many misconceptions.

The proposed regulatory system of a section board with two non-union contractors, two union contractors and a building inspector has functioned successfully for other commercial trades and has prevented cronyism in many cases, he explained.

The bill also allows for grandfathering companies, Mr. Horner added in response to prior testimony. In addition, while the opposition claims that the test for obtaining a commercial contractor license places an unfair burden on companies, all the required information for the test is available on the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board's website and only one person per company must take the test.

"This bill creates a level playing field for large and small contractors alike, including those classified as independent contractors," Mr. Horner told the committee.

Valarie Pope also testified on behalf of the ORCA in an effort to clarify points made by opposition testimony in December which she said fundamentally misunderstood the current Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board's licensing program. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 12, 2017)

Ms. Pope said OCILB does not require a bond as a part of the license and the OCILB license is a contractor's license, not an installer's license. In addition, the OCILB continuing education is offered by many approved training agencies, she said.

Furthermore, a statewide license for commercial roofing contractors would streamline the process of municipal licensing and registration like it has in other trades, Ms. Pope said.

In response to points mentioned about competition in the roofing industry and allowing the marketplace to self-regulate, Ms. Pope said OCILB has done an excellent job enforcing the law requiring contractors to hold a license.

"In the same way that the mechanical and electrical specialty trades have continued to grow and thrive, with many new contractors being licensed annually, the OCILB will provide an effective, affordable, and practical industry-based mechanism to help prevent employee misclassification and the tax and insurance fraud that go with it," she told the committee.

Members of the committee lobbed plenty of questions at the witnesses on both sides of the issue.

Rep. Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) asked Mr. Moore if licensure is a major deterrent to entering the trade labor force.

Mr. Moore said licensure is another step in the process that is already long and unnecessary. And he told Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) his company works in many states, which further affects the subcontractors he could employ under the legislation.

Rep. West asked how a customer would be able to recognize a high-quality company without a license. Mr. Moore said customer reviews are a widely used tool for distinguishing the quality of work performed by companies.

Mr. Moore told Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy) that the five-year term required for licensure is unnecessary for the roofing industry and that it might also create an unfair work environment.

Mr. Martinez, meanwhile, said many small businesses do not have access the attorneys and policy advisors that large firms like his provide to navigate additional regulations. He opined that the committee needs to include more small businesses in its discussions and to avoid bills that give additional advantages to large competitors.

Rep. West asked if the licensure would recognize the competency and expertise of commercial roofing contractors. Mr. Martinez said it would not, because the bill requires the owner to have the licensing, not the tradesperson themselves. The licensing is not a standard of excellence in this case, he added.

For commercial roofing, consumers are more careful with the companies they choose so the licensure is unnecessary, Mr. Martinez said. The agency created to perform the oversight mandated by this bill is not necessary because unions are already regulating the work that is being performed, he added.

But Mr. Horner, speaking for the ORCA, told Rep. Kelly the legislation would help to bring qualified workers into the industry.

Ms. Pope agreed, telling Rep. Ron Hood (R-Ashville) that the licensure process is not a high bar in terms of eliminating competition. Instead, she said, contractors in the commercial field should be held to a higher standard.

When Rep. Hood asked why licensure would be preferred over other regulatory options such as certification or registration, Mr. Horner replied that a statewide license would be easier for all companies and contractors in Ohio and in other states.

Attorney General Joins Chiropractors To Highlight Non-Opioid Pain Management

Attorney General Mike DeWine, legislative leaders and chiropractors on Tuesday sought to shine a spotlight on drug-free pain management options in the face of the ongoing opioid epidemic.

It is estimated that four of five new heroin users started out misusing prescription painkillers. Knowing that, the Ohio State Chiropractic Association is working to expand its outreach and education efforts to help stem the tide of addiction.

Patrick Ensminger, chairman of the OSCA's Opioid Task Force, likened the crisis to a homeowner returning home from a trip to find his home flooded by a running faucet. Should the homeowner first gather towels and start mopping up, he asked, or turn off the sink?

"We believe our role in this crisis is turning off the sink," Mr. Ensminger said. "There are a lot of efforts, very coordinated, very extensive, at sopping up the water but it's time to turn off the sink. It is the goal of chiropractors of our state association to do all that we can to make meaningful change for the opioid epidemic by offering non-pharmacological solutions to our patients and communities."

There were no policy proposals outlined by the group; instead Mr. DeWine said he is seeking to use his bully pulpit to highlight ongoing efforts across the state. Mr. DeWine said the OSCA's work and that of others offering such non-opioid solutions - such as acupuncture, massage, and yoga - are "one of the good news stories" he's witnessed in traversing the state.

"It's important for all of us...to recognize there are alternatives and we should be looking at these alternatives and highlighting these alternatives," Mr. DeWine said. "It is a change in culture, quite frankly - a change in culture that we are still fighting."

More exploration of alternative methods of pain management is one of the forthcoming recommendations soon to be unveiled from the AG's Insurer Taskforce on Opioid Reduction, Mr. DeWine said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 4, 2017)

"That task force is about done," Mr. DeWine said. "We expect in the next several weeks to have an announcement of what they recommend so more is coming."

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) was on hand to signal Senate leadership support for the OSCA's efforts. House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) was also expected to appear but was ultimately unable to attend. He issued a statement saying state leaders "need to be creative and open to all potential solutions."

But the most personal remarks came from retired U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Shilo Harris, a Texan who was severely injured in a 2007 roadside bombing in Iraq. The injuries, coupled with those he sustained after being rear-ended by a semi-tractor trailer years later, led to opioid addiction and to the contemplation of suicide.

"I put a pistol in my mouth...and chiropractic care saved my life," Mr. Harris said. "I was able to put that pistol down thinking about the legacy that I would be leaving my children."

It was only after he met a Canton-based chiropractor that he was able to begin recovering and start taking his life back, he said.

"This isn't a veteran problem," Mr. Harris said of the epidemic. "This isn't a state problem. This is a national crisis and we have to act right now. It starts today."

Third Party Audit Finds Duke 'Generally' Compliant With Disconnection Requirements

Duke Energy "generally complies" with disconnection requirements, according to a third-party audit completed following the 2011 death of two people whose service was terminated during the winter months.

But the office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel contends the audit shows continued "cause for concern" regarding Duke practices that the counsel believes can harm consumers.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio previously determined that Duke failed to adhere to the state's winter disconnection order in that fatal case. The order provides guardrails to protect delinquent customers during the coldest months.

The death of Dorothy and Estill Easterling of Sharonville by hypothermia sparked two 2015 complaints before the PUCO - one from the family and another from the OCC. That led the commission in November to hire NorthStar Consulting Group to conduct a wider review of Duke's practices to ensure compliance with both state law and prior PUCO orders in those cases. (Case Docket)

The final report has now been submitted by the Cincinnati-based consultant and it identifies several areas of partial compliance on the part of Duke while giving the company generally passing marks overall.

"Although Duke Energy Ohio has a relatively aggressive approach to collections, it generally complies with regulatory requirements," NorthStar wrote in summarizing its findings.

The report outlines several areas of partial compliance and even in some areas with full compliance recommends certain changes to improve the company's operations and its communications with customers.

Duke Energy spokeswoman Sally Thelen said in response to the final report, "We have received the audit concerning our disconnection practices, and are reviewing it currently before determining our next steps."

The OCC too is still digesting the audit, said spokesman Dan Doron.

"While we continue to analyze the audit report, the report's findings further confirm that there is cause for concern about the effect of Duke's disconnection practices on consumers," Mr. Doron said. "We look forward to working with the PUCO and the utility toward ensuring that consumers are given all applicable state protections regarding disconnection of the electric and natural gas services that are essential for their health and welfare."

Among concerns flagged by auditors is the company's partial compliance with aspects of Revised Code sections or commission orders:

- Requiring customers to be informed of all payment options to avoid their service being disconnected.
- Stating disconnection notices be mailed separately or included in the regular monthly bill; in the latter case it must be prominently identified and contain certain specific information.
- Ensuring extended payment plans are made available to delinquent customers wishing to avoid delinquency including the possibility for a customer-negotiated arrangement.
- Establishing certain weatherization notification requirements in a Revised Code section pertaining to exceptions when shutting off electricity and gas.

Other areas of improvement were also noted, including recommending that Duke more fully market its program to ensure active duty military customers are able to avoid disconnection.

The audit was initially scheduled to be filed by Feb. 7 but the company was granted an extension.

Gongwer Unveils 2018 Elections App

Gongwer News Service today announced the availability of the 2018 Ohio Elections app that provides easy-to-use information and analysis of this year's elections, as well as enhanced functionality.

The app, which is available for download on devices using iOS and Android, offers exclusive analysis of races for the Ohio General Assembly, the state's U.S. House seats, the governor's race, U.S. Senate race and all other statewide contests.

The app gives users on-the-go access to detailed candidate biographical information, with options to review primary races and, eventually, general election campaigns once those races take shape.

Users can also see which U.S. House, Ohio Senate and Ohio House races are expected to be the most competitive and the seats where one party has a slight or strong edge via the Analysis feature.

For most candidates, users will see links to the candidate's social media accounts, district maps, campaign websites and ways to contact the candidate, as well as biographical information. If that candidate has run for state or federal office from 2004 onward, the app also displays his or her performance in those elections.

Users also can use the Key Races function to identify only on the primaries and general election matchups that are considered competitive.

New in the 2018 app is an improved push notification feature. Gongwer will periodically alert users when new information has been uploaded to the app.

As the campaign season progresses, and as race dynamics change, analyses will be updated.

Users of the iPhone and iPad can download the iOS version from the App Store at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/2018-ohio-elections/id1309280784?mt=8>

Users of Android devices can download the app from Google Play at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.gongwer.oh2018&hl=en>

The app is available to download for \$4.99.

Organizations interested in purchasing advertising space on the app can find information on that opportunity at [this location](#).

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the [Gongwer website](#).

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Governor's Appointments

Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission: Gwen Howe-Gebbers, JD of Holgate for a term beginning March 19, 2018, and ending August 21, 2020.

Motor Vehicle Dealers Board: Neal J. Barkan of Bexley for a term beginning March 19, 2018, and ending October 4, 2019.

Ohio Tuition Trust Authority Investment Board: Jack R. Green of Columbus for a term beginning March 19, 2018, and ending January 30, 2022.

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board: Steven R. Bergman, PE of Cincinnati for a term beginning March 19, 2018, and ending July 10, 2019.

State Fire Council: Charles W. Dixon of Granville for a term beginning March 19, 2018, and ending November 1, 2018 and Thomas P. Jubeck of Mentor for a term beginning March 20, 2018, and ending November 1, 2020.

Ohio Reclamation Forfeiture Fund Advisory Board: T. Steven Williams of Malta for a term beginning March 20, 2018, and ending January 10, 2022.

Oil and Gas Commission: Phillip L. Parker of Beavercreek for a term beginning March 20, 2018, and ending October 14, 2022.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, April 4

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) Congressional fundraiser, Columbus Club, 181 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Chair: \$2,700, Host: \$1,000, Guest: \$500 to Bacon for Congress)


Tuesday, April 10

Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) and Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Crystal, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Gardner Committee and/or Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

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Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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7/24/2018

<https://mail-attachment.googleusercontent.com/attachment/u/0/?ui=2&ik=633a3672ae&view=att&th=1624582c98364321&attid=0.4&disp...>



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

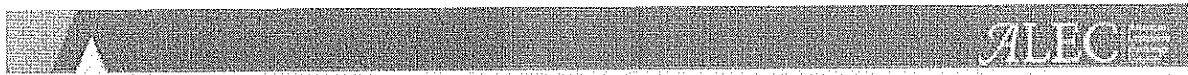
This Week At ALEC: 3/22/2018

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <tmclaughlin@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Thu, Mar 22, 2018 at 12:19 PM

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ALEC Digital Exchange: March 22, 2018



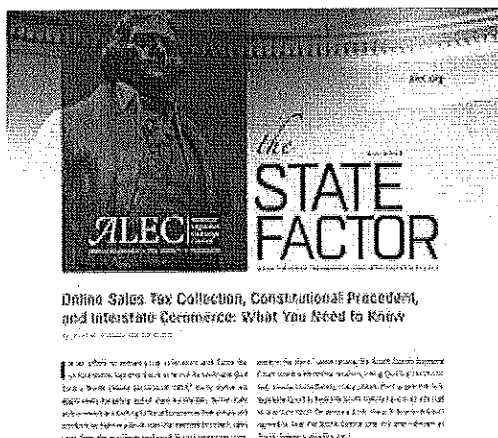
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Online Sales Tax

Educating Policymakers on Internet Sales Tax American Legislative Exchange Council



There is much confusion and misinformation around the topic of expanding Online Sales Tax collection. ALEC is working to clear up these misunderstandings and educate leaders on this nuanced issue. ALEC Chief Economist Jonathan Williams will be on a **Freedomworks Facebook Live** today at 1PM to talk about Internet Sales Tax. Additionally, the Center For State Fiscal Reform has **produced a report** to help you better grasp the issue.

State Legislators, please consider signing the **open legislator letter** below concerning Online Sales Tax collection.

[Sign the Letter](#)

ALEC Care

Constituent Relations and Tracking at Your Fingertips



ALEC CARE | CONSTITUENT ANALYTICS AND RESEARCH EXCHANGE

ALEC CARE is a web-based system that helps members effectively manage their constituent relations. It is a powerful tool for tracking constituent information and analyzing constituent data. ALEC CARE is a free service for all ALEC members.

Are you familiar with your ALEC member benefit, C.A.R.E.? This online platform is your new go-to for all constituent tracking. We pre-populate your account with public records and let you fill in notes and data relevant to your daily work. To activate your personal account, and schedule an online webinar to review the

platform, contact our C.A.R.E. Associate,
Aaron Gillham, today at agillham@alec.org

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Working to Heal Kentucky

Senator Dr. Ralph Alvarado | KY-28



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Kentucky Senator Dr. Ralph Alvarado**. Dr. Alvarado has been a physician in Winchester, KY since 1998 and entered the legislature to pursue more comprehensive health care regulations and fix the tort system, saying "clearly, there was a need for a physician voice in the General Assembly and someone to champion these causes."

[Read Article](#)

STFS 2018

Register Now for the Spring Task Force Summit



Registration is currently open for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit. The summit will take place on **April 27, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI**. Click the link below to get more information and register for the conference. In addition, watch your inbox for the 30-Day Mailer, containing model policies up for consideration at the summit.

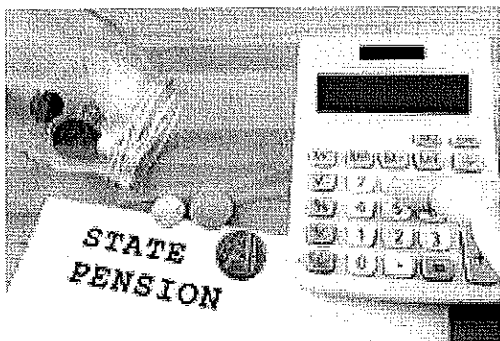
[Register Here](#)

Pension Reform

Converting Pension Plans from Defined Benefit (DB) to Defined Contribution (DC): The Myths and the Messaging (Part 3)

Steve Anderson | Center for State Fiscal Reform

The information monopoly possessed by Defined Benefit (DB) plan actuaries creates an enormous information imbalance in the discussion over how to transition from a DB



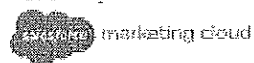
to a Defined Contribution (DC) plan. Demanding the right data in order to separate reality from accounting anomalies enables policymakers to take back control of the narrative.

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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Center for State Fiscal Reform Updates: 3/27/2018

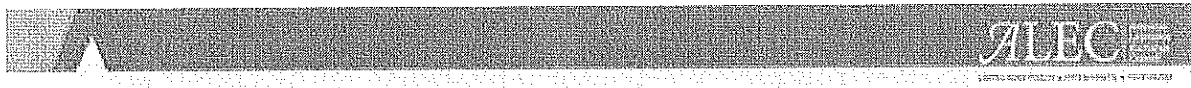
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Tue, Mar 27, 2018 at 12:14 PM

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Center for State Fiscal Reform - March 27, 2018



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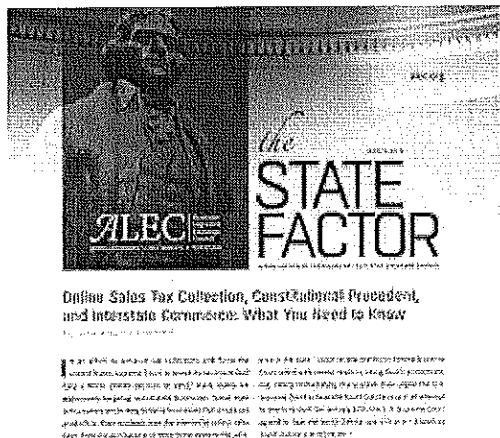


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Online Sales Tax

Online Sales Tax Collection, Constitutional Precedent, and Interstate Commerce: What You Need to Know

Center for State Fiscal Reform



There is much confusion and misinformation around the topic of expanding Online Sales Tax collection. ALEC is working to clear up these misunderstandings and educate leaders on this nuanced issue. The Center For State Fiscal Reform has **produced a report** to help you better understand the issue. Additionally, ALEC Chief Economist and VP of the Center for State Fiscal Reform Jonathan Williams recently **appeared on a FreedomWorks Facebook Live** to discuss the topic.

State Legislators, please consider signing the open legislator letter below concerning Online Sales Tax collection.

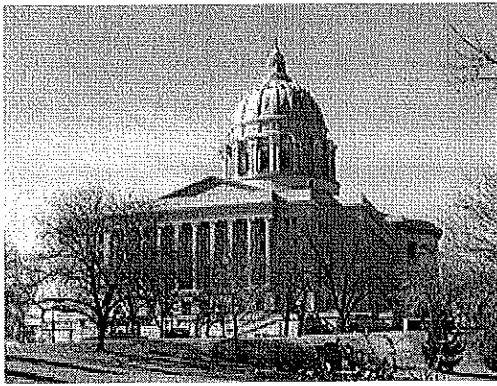
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[View Letter](#)

Legislator Voices

North Carolina, not Kansas, is the Tax Cut Model

MO Senator Ed Emery and Jonathan Williams | *Kansas City Star*

There are right and wrong ways to go about tax reform, and the overspending pitfalls from Kansas should be kept in mind. However, North Carolina provides Missouri with a better road map for tax reform that works.


[Read Article](#)

Expert Insight

NJ Move Further Underfunds State Pensions

Thurston Powers | Center for State Fiscal Reform | *Asbury Park Press*



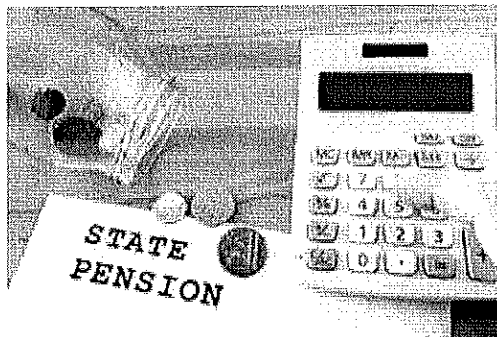
Newly appointed New Jersey State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio this month increased the state pension system discount rate from 7 to 7.5 percent, while phasing it back down to 7 percent over the next five years. New Jersey's decision to increase its discount rate stands in stark contrast to the majority of state pension plans decreasing their discount rates.

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Pension Reform

Converting Pension Plans from Defined Benefit (DB) to Defined Contribution (DC): The Myths and the Messaging

Steve Anderson | Center for State Fiscal Reform



The information monopoly possessed by Defined Benefit (DB) plan actuaries creates an enormous information imbalance in the discussion over how to transition from a DB to a Defined Contribution (DC) plan. Demanding the right data in order to separate reality from accounting anomalies enables policymakers to take back control of the narrative.

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Williams Report

The Williams Report

Bob Williams | Center For State Fiscal Reform

ALEC Senior Scholar Bob Williams recaps the important stories and trends in budget and

7/24/2018

Gmail - Center for State Fiscal Reform Updates: 3/27/2018



pension reform that you may have missed
over the last month

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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

FW: question

1 message

Stephen.Harris@ohiohouse.gov <Stephen.Harris@ohiohouse.gov> Tue, Mar 27, 2018 at 4:58 PM
To: "Ciara.Price@ohiohouse.gov" <Ciara.Price@ohiohouse.gov>, "Alex.Sawatzki@ohiohouse.gov"
<Alex.Sawatzki@ohiohouse.gov>, "Angel.Guzman@ohiohouse.gov" <Angel.Guzman@ohiohouse.gov>,
"johnpattersonhd99@gmail.com" <johnpattersonhd99@gmail.com>, "latoursm@gmail.com" <latoursm@gmail.com>

Hi everyone, please see Barb's request below.

I went back through my emails and found the attached chain. I'm pretty sure the provision came out of the IP meeting back on January 30 but I think I had to sneak out early so I may not have been there for this part of the discussion. Do any of you have a recollection of where the website provision came from? I'm thinking maybe Gabriella Celeste?

Thanks,

Steve

Stephen M. Harris

Policy Advisor

Ohio House of Representatives Democratic Caucus

Stephen.Harris@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-2189

From: Barbara Shaner [mailto:barbaracshaner@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 3:35 PM

To: Harris, Stephen <Stephen.Harris@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: question

Hi Stephen,

I hope this is still your email address. I wondered if you could answer a question for me on HB 318, even though you aren't working for Representative Patterson any longer (or working on education issues). I need to know where one provision in the bill came from and thought you might remember who wanted it included in the bill.

It's the provision that requires the memorandum of understanding between the district and the law enforcement agency posted in a conspicuous place on the school district's website.

Thanks!

Barbara

Barbara Shaner, OASBO Advocacy Specialist

OhioPro Advocacy

c/o Allerton Hill Consulting, LLC

614-325-9562

barbaracshaner@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "JohnpattersonHD99@gmail.com" <johnpattersonhd99@gmail.com>

To: "Stephen.Harris@ohiohouse.gov" <Stephen.Harris@ohiohouse.gov>

Cc: "Ciara.Price@ohiohouse.gov" <Ciara.Price@ohiohouse.gov>, "Angel.Guzman@ohiohouse.gov" <Angel.Guzman@ohiohouse.gov>

Bcc:

Date: Tue, 30 Jan 2018 22:41:28 +0000

Subject: Re: HB 318 IP Meeting follow Up

This captures the essence of our agreement....

The only other note I had was to require the MOU to be publicly placed on the district's website, or other place, (where other policies, like student conduct code) are to be found. Are districts required to put these policies on-line currently? The notion was to make the MOU as accessible as possible.

The note about the number of SRO's is not to be put into legislation, but simply an ask of ODE from the group....

Please ask Holly to add these changes as they reflect our intentions..... JP

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 30, 2018, at 5:30 PM, "Stephen.Harris@ohiohouse.gov" <Stephen.Harris@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Gabriella just sent her comments below. Please take a look and see if it matches what you believe was agreed to in the meeting. Holly is on the email below but it probably makes sense to follow up with her to give her the go ahead to incorporate the changes.

Stephen M. Harris

Policy Advisor

Ohio House of Representatives Democratic Caucus

Stephen.Harris@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-2189

From: Gabriella Celeste [mailto:mgc36@case.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 5:18 PM

To: Guzman, Angel <Angel.Guzman@ohiohouse.gov>

Cc: Kari P <kari.parsons@osroa.org>; Erin Davies <edavies@jjohio.org>; Darolddjohnson@oft-aft.org; hvoneckartsberg@dublin.oh.us; Holly Cantrell <Holly.Cantrell@lsc.ohio.gov>; Harris, Stephen <Stephen.Harris@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: HB 318 IP Meeting follow Up

Thank you Representatives Patterson and LaTourette for convening us to discuss the SRO bill (HB 318).

Per your request, please find below the following notes for suggested revisions that I understand the group found consensus on (as they currently appear in version 6 of the bill -- some may be reordered).

1. Lines 6+: Grandfather in existing SROs for training purposes
2. Lines 13+: Add a provision requiring that such training be completed at the next available training, within the calendar school year (no more than one year from the effective date of the bill).
3. Lines 26+: revise to read -- "...including understanding the psychological and physiological characteristics consistent with the ages of the students in the assigned building or buildings, understanding the the appropriate, limited role of school resource officers in providing discipline and reducing the number of referrals to juvenile court, and use of developmentally-appropriate interview, interrogation, de-escalation and behavior management strategies;"
4. Lines 117+ (TO BE MOVED UP IN THE BILL): Revised to require an MOU that addresses key areas (see attached handout that we provide with the Sample MOU that highlights these 5 areas on **page 2 which notes key features of the sample MOU, also linked to on this handout**) --

"A school district or school and school resource officer shall develop a contract or memorandum of understanding to clarify the purpose of the SRO program and roles and expectations between the participating entities. Such contract or memorandum shall be posted with the school district or school student code of conduct and will address the following:

- (a) Clearly defined set of goals for the SRO program;
 - (b) Background requirements or suggested expertise for employing law enforcement in the school setting, including an understanding of child and adolescent development;
 - (c) Professional development, including training requirements that focus on age-appropriate practices for conflict resolution and developmentally-informed de-escalation and crisis intervention methods;
 - (d) Clearly defined roles, responsibilities and expectations of the partners involved, including school resource officers, law enforcement, school administrators, staff and teachers, with an understanding that routine discipline matters and truancy is the responsibility of the school administrators. A protocol for how suspected criminal activity versus school discipline is to be handled should be addressed.
 - (e) The requirement for coordinated crisis planning and updating of school crisis plans.
 - (f) Any other items determined to be warranted in fostering a SRO program that builds positive relationships between law enforcement, school staff and the students, promotes a safe and positive learning environment and decreases the number of youth formally referred to the juvenile justice system."
5. Line 125 and attachment: Remove "custodial interrogation" from definitions. We also agreed to the other crossed-out provisions of version 6.

Also, we asked that school districts/schools report to ODE the number of SROs in their district/school and this was going to be discussed with ODE.

I hope this reflects what we discussed but of course I may have missed details. Please feel free to follow up with questions or suggestions.

Thanks again everyone!
Gabriella

--

Gabriella Celeste, J.D.
Policy Director

Co-Director, Childhood Studies Program

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Anthropology

Schubert Center for Child Studies

7/23/2018

Gmail - FW: question

Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Avenue, Crawford Hall Suite 615
Cleveland, OH 44106-7179
Phone: 216-368-5314
Fax: 216-368-1196
mgc36@case.edu
schubert.case.edu

 **Re HB 318 IP Meeting follow Up**
27K

This captures the essence of our agreement....

The only other note I had was to require the MOU to be publicly placed on the district's website, or other place, (where other policies, like student conduct code) are to be found. Are districts required to put these policies on-line currently? The notion was to make the MOU as accessible as possible.

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Cc: Kari P <kari.parsons@osroa.org>; Erin Davies <edavies@jjohio.org>; Darolddjohnson@oft-aft.org; hvoneckartsberg@dublin.oh.us; Holly Cantrell <Holly.Cantrell@lsc.ohio.gov>; Harris, Stephen <Stephen.Harris@ohiohouse.gov>

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Per your request, please find below the following notes for suggested revisions that I understand the group found consensus on (as they currently appear in version 6 of the bill -- some may be reordered).

1. Lines 6+: Grandfather in existing SROs for training purposes
2. Lines 13+: Add a provision requiring that such training be completed at the next available training, within the calendar school year (no more than one year from the effective date of the bill).
3. Lines 26+: revise to read -- "...including understanding the psychological and physiological characteristics consistent with the ages of the students in the assigned building or buildings, understanding the the appropriate, limited role of school resource officers in providing discipline and reducing the number of

referrals to juvenile court, and use of developmentally-appropriate interview, interrogation, de-escalation and behavior management strategies;"

4. Lines 117+ (TO BE MOVED UP IN THE BILL): Revised to require an MOU that addresses key areas (see attached handout that we provide with the Sample MOU that highlights these 5 areas on **page 2 which notes key features of the sample MOU, also linked to on this handout**) --

"A school district or school and school resource officer shall develop a contract or memorandum of understanding to clarify the purpose of the SRO program and roles and expectations between the participating entities. Such contract or memorandum shall be posted with the school district or school student code of conduct and will address the following:

- (a) Clearly defined set of goals for the SRO program;
- (b) Background requirements or suggested expertise for employing law enforcement in the school setting, including an understanding of child and adolescent development;
- (c) Professional development, including training requirements that focus on age-appropriate practices for conflict resolution and developmentally-informed de-escalation and crisis intervention methods;
- (d) Clearly defined roles, responsibilities and expectations of the partners involved, including school resource officers, law enforcement, school administrators, staff and teachers, with an understanding that routine discipline matters and truancy is the responsibility of the school administrators. A protocol for how suspected criminal activity versus school discipline is to be handled should be addressed.
- (e) The requirement for coordinated crisis planning and updating of school crisis plans.
- (f) Any other items determined to be warranted in fostering a SRO program that builds positive relationships between law enforcement, school staff and the students, promotes a safe and positive learning environment and decreases the number of youth formally referred to the juvenile justice system."

5. Line 125 and attachment: Remove "custodial interrogation" from definitions. We also agreed to the other crossed-out provisions of version 6.

Also, we asked that school districts/schools report to ODE the number of SROs in their district/school and this was going to be discussed with ODE.

I hope this reflects what we discussed but of course I may have missed details.

Please feel free to follow up with questions or suggestions.

Thanks again everyone!

Gabriella

--

Gabriella Celeste, J.D.

Policy Director

Co-Director, Childhood Studies Program

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Anthropology

Schubert Center for Child Studies

Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Avenue, Crawford Hall Suite 615
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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

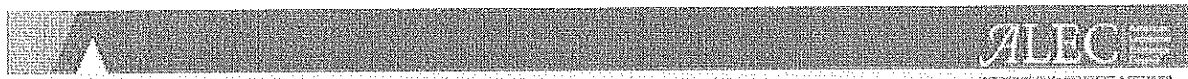
This Week At ALEC - 3/29/2018

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <tmclaughlin@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Thu, Mar 29, 2018 at 1:35 PM

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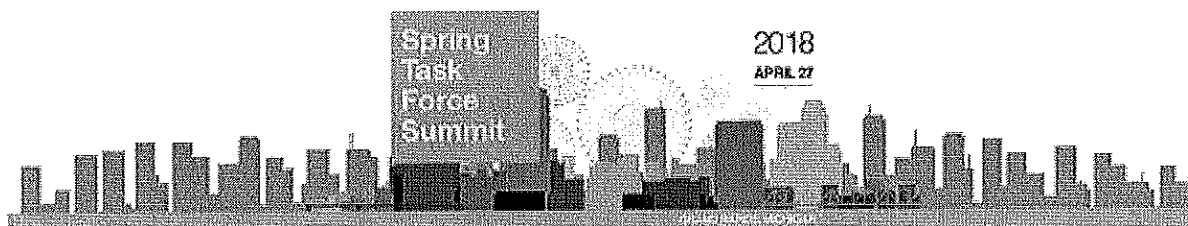
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New ALEC Publication

Other Post-Employment Benefit Liabilities 2017

Thurston Powers, Jonathan Williams, Joel Griffith | American Legislative Exchange Council



March 2018

Other Post-Employment Benefit Liabilities, 2017

The continuing need for OPEB reform

Other Post-Employment Benefits, 2017 surveys the more than 100 state-administered post-employment benefit plans, such as health insurance, Medicare advantage, life insurance, and other non-pension benefits. The report details the assets, assumptions, and risk-free liabilities, illuminating both the risks that states face and potential reforms they can take to avert a crisis

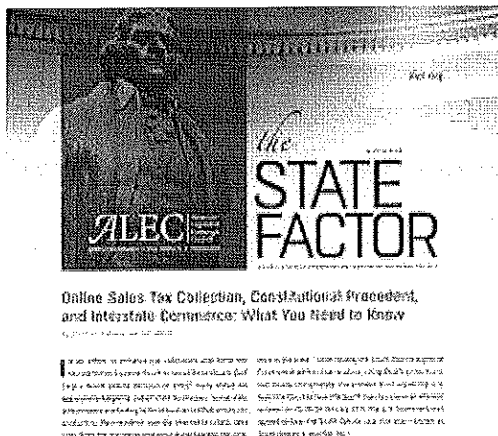
[Read Publication](#)

Online Sales Tax

Online Sales Tax Collection, Constitutional Precedent, and Interstate Commerce: What You Need to Know

Center for State Fiscal Reform

There is much confusion and misinformation around the topic of expanding Online Sales Tax collection. ALEC is working to clear up these misunderstandings and educate leaders on this nuanced issue. The Center For State


[View Video](#)

Fiscal Reform has **produced a report** to help you better understand the issue. Additionally, ALEC Chief Economist and VP of the Center for State Fiscal Reform Jonathan Williams recently **appeared on a FreedomWorks Facebook Live** to discuss the topic.

State Legislators, please consider signing the open legislator letter below concerning Online Sales Tax collection.

[View Letter](#)

ALEC CARE

Constituent Relations and Management at Your Fingertips



ALEC CARE | CONSTITUENT ANALYTICS AND RESEARCH EXCHANGE

Based on the ALEC member needs, ALEC CARE is a web-based system of tools and services that will help you better understand your constituents and their needs, and help you better manage your constituent relations.

Did you know that ALEC has an online platform built just for you, to handle your day-to-day constituent interactions? We provide this benefit free to all members, your new suite of tools to be more effective legislators by having a permanent place for notes, issue tracking, and even outreach. **Contact our C.A.R.E. Associate, Aaron Gillham, today at agillham@alec.org**, to schedule a webinar and activate your personal account.

STFS 2018

Early Bird Registration for Spring Task Force Summit Ends Soon

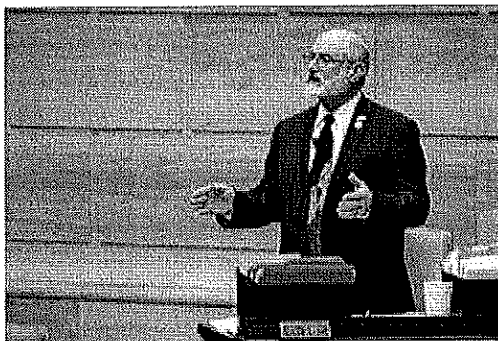


Early Bird registration for the 2018 Spring Task Force Summit in Grand Rapids, MI **ends on April 6**. Follow the link below to register. In addition, **look out for an e-mail from your task force director containing draft policy for the upcoming Spring Task Force Summit.**

[Register Here](#)

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Working to Grow Missouri
 Senator Brian Munzlinger | MO-18



This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Missouri State Senator Brian Munzlinger**. Senator Munzlinger is a third generation Missouri farmer who cares deeply about growing local business in his state and ran for office to "ensure that the voices and concerns of rural Missouri and agriculture continue to be heard."

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7/23/2018

Gmail - The Latest from CAS at Miami University



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

The Latest from CAS at Miami University

1 message

Chris Makaroff, Dean, College of Arts and Science <CAS@miamioh.edu>

Reply-To: CAS@miamioh.edu

To: latoursm@gmail.com

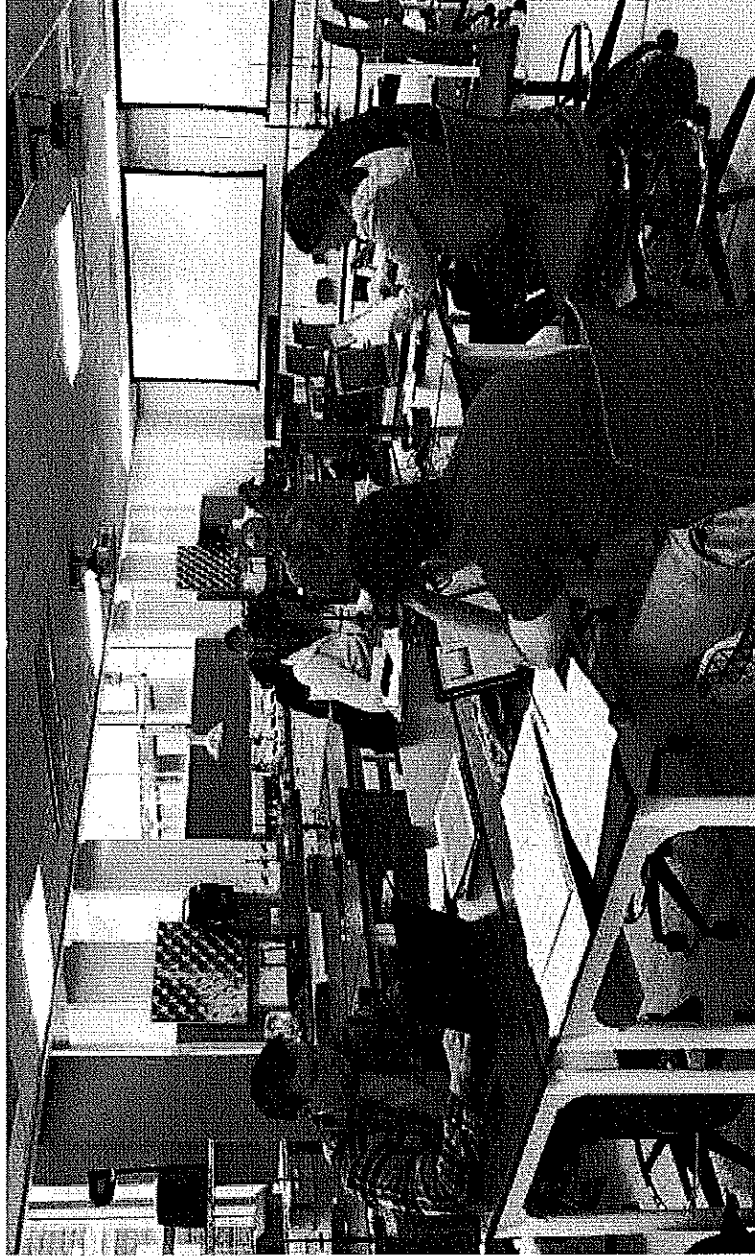
Fri, Mar 30, 2018 at 11:02 AM



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Alumni Update

March 2018



Pearson Hall is in the midst of some modernized, innovative renovations to its classroom and lab spaces

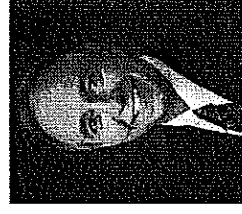
Capitalizing on our strengths and maintaining our cutting-edge research and teaching

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Over spring break last week, several new classrooms and lab spaces in Pearson Hall went through their final touches to allow students and faculty in botany, biology, microbiology, and zoology to begin moving in — thus bringing the first of two phases of our four-year, \$65 million project closer to completion.

To quote one of my colleagues, professor and chair of microbiology **Luis Actis**, the Pearson renovation "will foster the instruction of the next generation of educators, scientists, and citizens, who will have an impact on the quality of life in Ohio and across the nation." Please consider making a gift to support this exciting and impactful project.

March 2018 has been a very active month here in CAS, which has hosted events such as our annual Spring Janus Forum as well as numerous lectures and presentations from all across the liberal arts. Our stories in this newsletter represent just a small sample of what we have been able to capture.



I'm always deeply impressed with the multiple ways our alumni engage with CAS students, whether via an on-campus visit for career advice, guidance and mentorship in various internships, or simply sharing their stories and experiences. Everything you do in these areas makes a positive impact, so I thank you.

Until next month!

Chris Makaroff

Dean and Professor of Chemistry

cas@MiamiOH.edu

P.S. We're introducing a new way for all Miami alumni to get involved with our students. We would like to invite you to join [Miami Alumni Connect](#), our new online platform that allows alumni to connect with and mentor current students. There are many things you can do on the site, including:

- Be a short-term or long-term adviser for students or other alumni.
- Find a mentor or seek specific career advice.
- Expand your professional network by interacting with other Miami alumni in your city, industry, or common groups and organizations.
- Post and browse jobs geared toward Miami alumni.



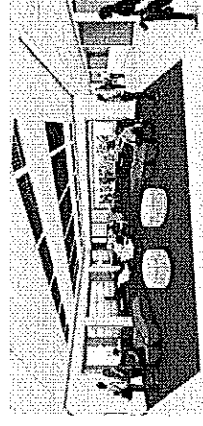
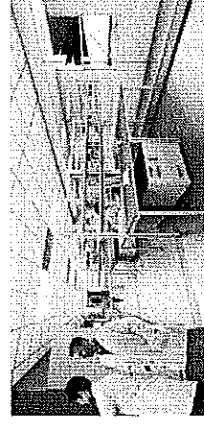
Support CAS

Pearson Hall: The upgraded home for Miami's biology, microbiology, zoology and botany students

As the headquarters for Miami's Departments of Biology and Microbiology, Pearson Hall is currently undergoing its first serious renovation in its 33-year history.

Both chair and professor of biology **Tom Crist** and chair and professor of microbiology **Luis Actis** have been overseeing the approximate \$65 million transformation of Pearson into a contemporary structure with state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories and updated classrooms and group spaces.

Phase 1, to be completed by Fall 2018, is focused on half of the building's necessary heating, cooling, and lab exhaust systems as well as half of its teaching and research laboratories. It will also introduce a modernized public welcome area on the ground floor, while adding a brand-new glass-encased atrium in the center of the building — once an underused interior courtyard. Phase 2, set for completion in Summer 2020, will finalize all labs and classrooms.

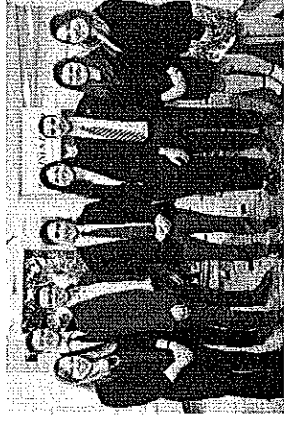


[See more images and continue reading about the Pearson renovation.](#)

Janus Forum poses the question: In the age of Trump, is the party over?

The Janus Forum, offered once each semester, held its 6th annual spring lecture on March 7, inviting students and faculty to discuss the American political parties and their changing roles and influences during the administration of Donald Trump.

Guest speakers **Kelly Ayotte**, a former U.S. senator from New Hampshire, **Ezra Klein**, founder and editor-at-large of Vox.com, and **Jonathan Swan**, a political reporter for Axios, answered debate questions set by the panel and live-tweeted by audience members. The trio were intentionally chosen by the planning committee, run by students, in order to get a diverse array of viewpoints.



[Read more about the Janus Forum.](#)

More notable CAS lectures and events

covered by *student communications interns for CAS News*

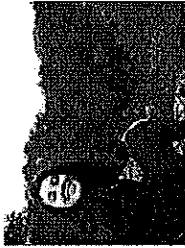

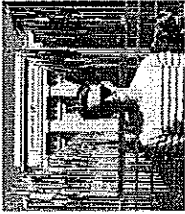
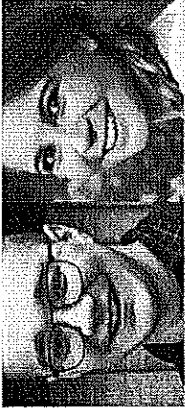


- [HIVoices](#) shares stories of those impacted by HIV
- [The rocks that joined the Americas](#): Is there a connection between climate and evolution of life?
- [Changing views through history](#): Japan's only female *shogun* and her significance to historical research
- [Women & Writing](#) panel addresses how #MeToo has impacted women journalists
- [MJF Distinguished Alumni](#) offer advice and share tales of media careers

New CAS student spotlights

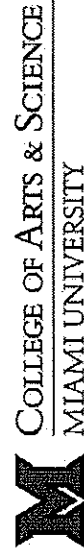
Our latest editions in our CAS Student Spotlight series include [Lauren Poythress](#), [Harrison Grayson](#), and [Erika Graves](#), who talk about some of their best Miami experiences -- leading the diverse Bridges Scholars program, exploring the ancient French city of Lyon, making a positive environmental impact on campus, and much more.

CAS student achievements

- [Jacob Bruggeman](#), a junior history and political science major, is the [CAS winner of Miami's Goldman Prize](#)
- [Carrie Dobbs](#), a senior in chemistry and chemistry education, was selected as the best undergraduate poster in chemistry education research at the American Chemical Society (ACS) meeting in New Orleans
- Miami University announces the [2018 President's Distinguished Service Award recipients](#)
- Sophomore political science major [Megan Cremeans](#) was [newly appointed to Miami University's Board of Trustees](#) by Ohio Gov. John Kasich

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Graves | Poythress | Graydon | Bruggeman & Dobbs |
| <p>Recent CAS faculty news</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAS faculty spotlight on <u>Jonathan Strauss</u>, professor of French, Department of French & Italian chair Professor of biology <u>Michael Vanni</u> named Fellow of the Ecological Society of America In Memoriam: <u>Cheryl Heckler</u>, associate professor of media, journalism & film Associate professor of biology <u>Yoshi Tomoyasu</u>'s research on insect wings in <i>The New York Times</i> | | | |
| <p>NEW: CAS alumni spotlights</p>  <p>This month we unveiled our new page for <u>CAS alumni spotlights</u>, showcasing alumni who have visited campus to give lectures, meet with students, and share their career insights and experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Tony Albrecht</u>, BA in Physics and Geology (2003); MS in Geology (2005) <u>Commander Jeffrey Betz</u>, BA in Political Science (2001) <u>Katie Lehmann</u>, BS in Geology (2012) <u>Margo Rosner</u>, BA in Anthropology (2012) <p>If you can't make it to Oxford, please <u>submit our online Alumni Spotlight form</u> to be featured on our website.</p> | | | |
|  | | | |

College of Arts and Science



7/23/2018

Gmail - The Latest from CAS at Miami University

100 Bishop Circle • Oxford, OH 45056-1879

513-529-1234 • cas@miamiOH.edu

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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

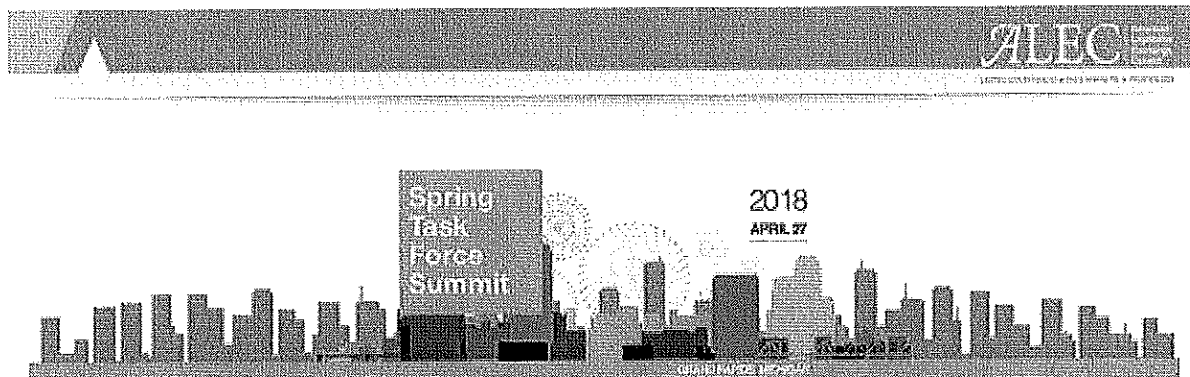
CEO Update: Get Ready for the ALEC Spring Meeting

1 message

Lisa B. Nelson <lisanelson@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Fri, Mar 30, 2018 at 12:15 PM

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).



Dear ALEC Members,

I wanted to reach out with a few updates in anticipation of seeing you in **Grand Rapids for the Spring Task Force Summit next month**. The spring meeting is shaping up nicely with each task force putting together their respective meetings and policy briefing.

Yesterday afternoon, each task force director distributed draft model policy for consideration at the meeting. In Grand Rapids, ALEC will consider models for online speech, the taxation of marijuana, education savings accounts and charter schools and energy extraction from federal lands, among many others. **Each task force is linked at the bottom of this email** so you have the opportunity to review all of the policies being considered at the meeting. If you are interested in joining another task force or sitting in on another meeting, please contact vice president of member relations Jeff Lambert.

In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings, ALEC is partnering with the Job Creators Network to the kick off of the "Tax Cuts Work" national bus tour in Grand Rapids on Friday morning. **Many of you will remember the success ALEC had at voicing the state legislator perspective during the federal tax reform debate last year.** The "Tax Cuts Work" bus tour will help you bring that message home to your district as they travel the states sharing what the tax cut has meant for the economy and everyday moms and dads. I want you to be part of the campaign launch and later **serve as a great messenger for jobs and the economy between now and the end of the year.** Look out for more on the "Tax Cuts Work" tour in the coming weeks.

Finally, a word about the exchange of ideas. The ALEC 45th anniversary has afforded me the opportunity to reflect on where ALEC has been and where it is going. ALEC has been and remains a leader on many of the key policy issues that face the states. This is the case because ALEC is consistent and reliable as it relates to limited government, free markets and federalism. ALEC legislators are more informed and more collaborative. Our model policy more deeply studied and debated. ALEC's often unsung but dramatic policy victories are a product of our organization's approach: Exchange. For example, the first school voucher program in the United States was in Milwaukee in 1989 (led by ALEC members). By the 1993 legislative sessions, voucher policies were championed by ALEC members in 45 states.

It's quite simple really. The best ideas are made even better when shared. We all come to ALEC for substantive policies debates. As you make plans to attend the Spring Task Force Summit next month, what perspective or unique point of view can you bring to task force discussions? Everyone

benefits from the exchange of ideas that takes place at ALEC.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer
American Legislative Exchange Council

ALEC Spring Task Force Summit Draft Model Policy.

Civil Justice

Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development

Communications and Technology

Criminal Justice

Education and Workforce Development

Energy, Environment and Agriculture

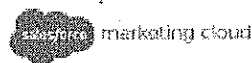
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Tax and Fiscal Policy

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Gmail - Ohio Report, Friday, March 30, 2018

Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 30, 2018 at 6:16 PM

Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com>

OHIO REPORT

Testimony of _____

News Tracking Legislation

OHIO REPORT
FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Ohio EPA Preps Omnibus Bill To Tackle Phosphorus Runoff, Chemical Disclosures, Other Issues

Kasich Signs Capital Budget, Touts Mental Health Facility Funding

Ohio Supreme Court To Hear Brain Injury Case Against NCAA

More Law Enforcement Agencies Meeting Established Standards, Report Finds

House District 56: Democratic Primary Frontrunners Tout Career, Public Service Experience

Supplemental Event Planner

Senate

Day Planner

Event Planner

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GONGWER Ohio

The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Volume #87, Report #62 -- Friday, March 30, 2018

Ohio EPA Preps Omnibus Bill To Tackle Phosphorus Runoff, Chemical Disclosures, Other Issues

The Kasich Administration has prepared wide-ranging legislation to crack down on phosphorus from agricultural runoff and wastewater treatment plants as well as enact a myriad of other changes.

The legislation, currently in draft form, is expected to be introduced in the House in the near future and takes a mid-biennium review-style approach to a host of environmental issues, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Director Craig Butler said in an interview.

It has already stirred extensive debate and pushback given the breadth of the proposed regulatory changes, as evidenced by some hesitancy to embrace it among GOP lawmakers familiar with its contents who have attended interested party meetings.

Gov. John Kasich briefly touched on the pending bill Friday during a press event, citing wastewater treatment as a focal point. He said some wastewater facilities "dump all this crap into the lake and destroy our jewel."

"Part of it are things that we in Ohio can control," Gov. Kasich said. "The frustrating thing is we're talking about these wastewater plants, that's why we put money in them to clean them up. These other states, they don't have it, it's a problem."

The governor also singled out the agricultural runoff issue as a priority. "We'll have more to say about agriculture and the runoff," he said. "That's got to stop."

Director Butler said he has been in contact with Rep. Steven Arndt (R-Port Clinton) and Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) about sponsoring the bill. Neither have committed thus far to an introduction, however the director said he expects a House bill at some point.



Craig Butler

"It's first and foremost about protecting the environment," Mr. Butler said. "Number two, it's about how we continue to promote economic development and job growth all at the same time."

Other goals, he said, include assisting businesses and communities through regulatory processes via a newly created OEPA ombudsman position and taking "practical steps" to improve water quality. (OEPA Factsheet)

The legislation would accomplish that latter point by expanding the definition of "agricultural pollution" to include fertilizer and direct the Department of Agriculture to establish rules for "watersheds in distress" caused by fertilizer. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 5, 2018)

Regarding any anticipated opposition from agricultural groups who have sparred with environmental groups over phosphorus runoff, Mr. Butler said more conversations with stakeholders are needed on that and other facets of the plan.

"We've...had lots of conversations with all the agriculture groups," Mr. Butler said. "We need to continue to have conversations with them and the issues of watershed distress. They're obviously very concerned about that, and

so we need to have that."

Sen. Gardner, who has been involved in the discussions, said he doesn't anticipate sponsoring a Senate version of the legislation.

"The governor's bill I think you'll find when it gets introduced or if it gets introduced it's not just about wastewater and the lake. It's about agriculture," Sen. Gardner said. "It's kind of a myriad of things, different environmental issues. It appears to me to be MBR-style legislation where it's comprehensive and has a good number of points and issues being addressed in the legislation."

Mr. Butler said the agency is ready to assist governments in understanding how the bill's proposal to institute a statewide phosphorus permit limit for wastewater treatment plants might impact local communities.

"On the one hand they're concerned but I think we're making good progress with them," he said. "And secondarily they also say if we are going to invest money on lowering phosphorus what is everyone else doing, including the predominant source of phosphorus: agriculture."

The proposal would also grant first responders and public water system operators with trade-secret chemical information in the case of emergencies - an idea that has been a point of contention during budget talks in recent years. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, April 14, 2017](#))

"We have worked with Oil and Gas Association," Mr. Butler said, referring to one major opponent of prior approaches to that idea. "We don't think there are any particular issues there."

The legislation would also expand the OEPA's legal authority in several areas, including enabling it to: pursue civil penalties for sources refusing to prevent or abate air pollution and odor nuisances; immediately suspend the certification of a public water system operator to protect public health and safety, and compel the cleanup of pollution discharges into state waters.

Other facets of the legislation include:

- Accelerating the air permit process for companies and developers.
- Eliminating rulemaking for defining the best available technology in air pollution sources to increase flexibility to keep up with ongoing technological advancements.
- Redefining "open dumping" to include inside areas such as abandoned buildings.
- Redefining state level discharge level to align that Revised Code section with current Administrative Code.
- Eliminating the requirement to be a registered sanitarian in the enforcement of solid waste laws.

With the legislation not yet introduced and the spring legislative clock ticking, Mr. Butler said he would anticipate the bill passing later this year if lawmakers are amenable.

"We're going to need to have series of discussions with all the stakeholders around these agricultural proposals," Mr. Butler said. "We're confident we'll work with Rep. Arndt to get the bill introduced.... We'd rather not rush it. We'd rather see a good bill get passed by the time the end of the year rolls around."

Kasich Signs Capital Budget, Touts Mental Health Facility Funding

It was a good Friday for backers of projects covered by state capital appropriations.

Gov. John Kasich signed the \$2.63 billion bricks-and-mortar measure ([HB 529](#)) during a ceremony at Twin Valley Behavioral Health Hospital in Columbus.

The governor pointed to efforts to stabilize the state's budget situation over the past several years, which he said allowed for the continued investments in Ohio-owned facilities and local projects. The legislation covering Fiscal Years 2019-20 building improvements includes mostly debt-backed investments in education, mental health facilities and community projects across the state.

"We still restrain our spending enough and our debt levels are low enough that we can afford this," he said. "If our debt level got up too high, we wouldn't be able to do these things."

Gov. Kasich signed the capital budget a little over a month after it was introduced. The legislation, traditionally agreed upon before its introduction, cleared both chambers quickly with overwhelming bipartisan support. This budget covers capital appropriations and reappropriations through June 30, 2020. (OBM Fact Sheet)

It included \$112 million to replace the main hospital at Twin Valley.

"This is going to help us move forward for the next 50 years at least, in this region of the state, with a quality building," said Tracy Plouck, director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Dr. Mark Hurst, medical director for ODMHAS, said he started working half a day a week at Twin Valley in 1992, working his way up to medical director for the hospital before moving to the state. The hospital was originally designed as a long-term geriatric facility and is not ideal for mental health, but the staff made it work, he said. The new facility will help the hospital serve the community's needs.

"Even the best craftsmen need good tools," he said.

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said the funding for Twin Valley was part of a broader effort to focus on mental health and drug treatment, which was a priority in the selection of community projects.

"We picked Twin Valley at least in part because of the importance that the legislature and the administration place on places like this that provide comprehensive and quality care to Ohioans," he said.

While the governor praised the investment in Twin Valley and other efforts to improve the state's mental health system, he cautioned lawmakers against cutting the state's Medicaid expansion.

"At some point I will be gone, and it will be very easy to cut the programs that help people who need help," he said. "Don't let it happen, folks."

In education and higher education, the budget includes \$625 for repairs, renovations and new K-12 education facilities and \$400 million for projects at Ohio's colleges and universities.

The administration's emphasis in education funding was on forward-looking infrastructure, including technology, not new building construction, Gov. Kasich said.

"We're not keen on the universities building new buildings," he said. "Buildings are 20th Century."

The budget includes \$100 million for the Clean Ohio Fund, which will help promote green space, farmland and trails across the state, the governor said. The state will provide \$439 million for local infrastructure projects administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission, through both bond-backed appropriations and revolving loan funding.

The governor also touted \$20 million included in the budget for community resiliency projects, intended to improve and expand infrastructure in community centers and other facilities as part of an effort to help high-risk youth and others in underserved areas.

"To me, we solve our problems in our country not by politicians pushing things down," he said. "We solve our problems by pulling things up."

The governor's office also released comments lauding the bill from various stakeholders.

Ohio Supreme Court To Hear Brain Injury Case Against NCAA

The Ohio Supreme Court next month will determine whether a lawsuit alleging the NCAA and the University of Notre Dame are responsible for injuries to a former player can proceed.

The lawsuit was filed by the widow of Steven Schmitz, who played wide receiver and running back at the university from 1974-1978. It alleges he suffered numerous head injuries that later manifested themselves through chronic traumatic encephalopathy, which he was diagnosed with in December 2012. (Docket)

Oral arguments are slated for April 11 during the court's off-site session in Putnam County at Ottawa-Glandorf High School.

The university and the NCAA successfully argued for the case to be dismissed as time-barred in the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. The Eighth District Court of Appeals later overturned that ruling, leading the case to the high court.

Notre Dame and the NCAA, however, contend that the appellate court erred because a diagnosis for the long-term effects of an injury a plaintiff already knew about does not revive a time-barred claim and that fraudulent-concealment and constructive-fraud claims are subject to a two-year statute of limitations under Ohio law.

"It makes no difference that Mr. Schmitz alleged he was first diagnosed with CTE in December 2012: The complaint demonstrates that he was experiencing symptoms well before then, giving the Schmitzes at least constructive knowledge of Mr. Schmitz's injury," the university and the college athletics governing body wrote in a merit brief.

They argue that the Schmitzes had notice no later than 2010 of the correlation between concussions and cognitive decline and that too much time has passed to determine whether university employees committed wrongful acts.

"Given the passage of time, it will be impossible for any jury reliably to untangle who (if anyone) is responsible for the cognitive and neurological problems that Mr. Schmitz experienced later in life," they write.

Another argument made by the university and NCAA is that the lawsuit could open the door to injury-based lawsuits by a host of former athletes.

"That is especially so in the context of concussion litigation, a class of suits potentially affecting every past, present, and future amateur (and, for that matter, professional) athlete in the state of Ohio," they wrote.

The Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys made a similar contention in an amicus brief filed in support of Notre Dame and the NCAA.

"Not only does the Eighth District's decision widely open the courthouse doors to anyone who has ever been injured playing a sport in high school or college, its reach also extends to any injury that worsens with time - regardless of whether the injury was sustained playing a sport, on the job, in an automobile accident, or by some other means," the group wrote.

The estate of Mr. Schmitz, though, said the NCAA and Notre Dame are seeking "a draconian narrowing of Ohio's discovery rules so that it excludes latent brain injury cases brought by all football players."

"Here, Steve Schmitz never even knew he had an injury. He never knew that the appellants had acted wrongfully by withholding information, failing to warn him, and failing to put in place any sort of medical protocol to address head impacts in football," the estate wrote.

"He never knew that the appellants knew or should have known to warn and protect him against the possibility of long-term latent brain disease from head impacts. Rather, appellant Notre Dame actively encouraged him and other Notre Dame football players to lead with their helmets and inflict on themselves and each other concussive and sub-concussive head impacts that can, in some players, lead to long-term neurodegenerative disease. The appellants have known this since at least 1933 but did nothing."

The Ohio Association for Justice also weighed in with an amicus brief supporting the position of Mr. Schmitz's estate.

"Almost all latent conditions, and indeed many of the events that trigger them, entail some level of physical manifestation or symptomology long before a recognizable injury can be reasonably ascertained," the group wrote. "To label all of them as distinct 'injuries' that give rise to a cause of action, as appellants' proposition of law would suggest, would be simply unworkable for litigants, practitioners and trial courts alike."

More Law Enforcement Agencies Meeting Established Standards, Report Finds

More than 80% of Ohio's law enforcement officers are either certified or in the process of achieving certification in statewide minimum standards, a state report released Friday shows.

The [2018 Law Enforcement Certification Public Report](#) from the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board found that 27,994 of 34,234 law enforcement officers across the state are in some phase of the certification process, accounting for about 82%.

Of the state's law enforcement agencies, 523 of 877 are in the certification process, the report found. At least one law enforcement agency is participating in all 88 counties covering 9.5 million of 11.5 million Ohioans.

"This report demonstrates that the overwhelming majority of law enforcement agencies are committed to implementing the standards," Karhlton Moore, executive director of the Office of Criminal Justice Services, said in a statement. "The collaborative process is working for agencies, and as a result our communities are better served."

At the time the data was compiled, the panel had adopted six standards. They were grouped into two categories, with use of force, including deadly force, and hiring and recruitment lumped together.

A total of 415 law enforcement agencies have achieved final certification on those standards, up from 270 in 2017, the report found.

The second set of standards includes community engagement, the use of body worn cameras, law enforcement telecommunicator training and bias-free policing.

A total of 318 law enforcement agencies are in the certification process of all six standards, according to the report.

"This report demonstrates that the overwhelming majority of law enforcement agencies are committed to implementing the standards; as a result, our communities are better served," former Sen. Nina Turner and Director of Public Safety John Born, co-chairs of the panel, said in releasing the report.

In previewing the report, Ed Burkhammer, deputy director at the Office of Criminal Justice Services, said Monday that it's "a way to kind of celebrate our law enforcement agencies and what they've accomplished."

Beyond the standards created by the panel, Mr. Burkhammer said many agencies have taken it a step further and received additional certification on other standards from outside entities.

"This is the most important, most impactful thing that I've been privileged to do in law enforcement," he said.

The panel this week also adopted its seventh standard, this one focused on the investigation of employee misconduct.

The group's eighth standard is likely to be centered on law enforcement interactions with the youth population. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 26, 2018)

The Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board was established by Gov. John Kasich in 2015 based on a recommendation from the Governor's Task Force on Community Police Relations. Both entities were formed in the wake of several high-profile officer-involved shootings.

The panel is made up of law enforcement, community members, elected officials, academia and the faith-based community.

"We continue to believe that the work of the Ohio Collaborative has and will continue to serve as an avenue to building and enhance the relationship between communities and law enforcement in Ohio," Ms. Turner and Mr. Born wrote.

House District 56: Democratic Primary Frontrunners Tout Career, Public Service Experience

A politically connected candidate and a union-backed hopeful have emerged as the two frontrunners in the four-way Democratic primary to replace term-limited Rep. Dan Ramos.

Former Lorain County Democratic Party Executive Director Cory Shawver and Amherst City Councilman Joe Miller are expected to be the top vote getters in a primary that also includes Mark Ballard and Claudia Olaes, who've been relatively inactive in the race.

Mr. Shawver, 28, said he's confident he'll head to the general election because, in addition relevant experience, he's got history on his side.

The 56th House District, as far as records show, has always elected a candidate who lives in the city of Lorain, he said.

"It is a Lorain-centered district. We're half the votes," Mr. Shawver said, adding he was born, raised and continues to live in the city.

"I had opportunities to go elsewhere...and I chose to pass those up and come back and work in my community," said Mr. Shawver, a project manager for the Lorain County Port Authority. "I am a firm believer that Lorain's best days are still ahead of us and I plan to spend my career focusing on that."

While he may not live in Lorain, Mr. Miller, 48, said he's able to represent everyone in the district best because of his age and experience.

In addition to serving on city council for more than two terms, the history teacher has taken part in collective bargaining and raised a family in the district.

"Right now I kind of get chided by people that I'm the old man in the race. I'm in my late 40s everybody else is in their 20s," Mr. Miller said. "Youth doesn't necessarily mean that they cannot provide the same service. Just in this case, you have a candidate that is educated, experienced, that is empathetic to those who have to go through the struggles and the challenges of raising a family, owning a home, holding a job, providing a service to his community."

Mr. Shawver also points to his credentials and work history as examples of why he's the most qualified candidate.

Prior to accepting his current job, which entails working closely with the county land bank, he said he spent two years working with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

He's also from a family of individuals who serve, he said. It includes his grandfather, who was the president of the Boilermakers union, his brother, who is a Lorain police officer, and his mother, who is the Lorain city treasurer.

While some voters are turned off by candidates who are politically inclined, Mr. Shawver doesn't shy away from his family or party connections.

"I don't think public service is a bad thing and I will use that message when I'm campaigning," he said.

If he's elected, Mr. Shawver said he'll work to improve access to job training for displaced workers, keep the lakeshore clean to attract jobs and tourism, and incentivize college graduates to stay in the state, possibly through free or reduced-price tuition.

"We need to make sure we give our young people a reason to stay here," he said.

More businesses would come to the state if trained workers were available, Mr. Shawver said. That training should start with individuals who need to switch careers, such as those who used to work in Lorain's steel mills.

"When the steel mills closed, we had workers that were forced to take minimum wage jobs to try to make ends meet," he said. "We need to be training our workers to go into other sectors, including other industrial sectors and high-tech sectors."

Other goals include protecting collective bargaining rights, enacting policies that benefit the middle class, and fighting against opiate addictions, he said.

"We need to give our schools and our police departments the resources to fight the heroin epidemic. That starts with returning the local government funds that've been taken away," Mr. Shawver said.

Increasing funding for local governments is also a priority for Mr. Miller, who said the amount of state dollars Amherst has received during his time on city council has declined by 40%.

"I've come to realize we send a lot of money down to Columbus and they're holding it for a rainy day fund while our bridges and our streets decline," he said. "My goal is to go down there and help our residents up here have those opportunities that we once had."

Opportunities are also provided through education, Mr. Miller said. The state's current education policies that focus heavily on testing and paperwork don't provide teachers with the tools they need to address issues that prevent students from learning or prepare them for careers.

"I would be the one of the first educators who would say that doing everything the old way is not going to continue to provide us with the workforce we need," he said. "But, we still need to understand the importance of public education as a democratic idea. Education empowers the masses. Children sometimes are not born into wealth or influence and public education, a free education if you will, is that opportunity."

Mr. Miller said it's difficult to convince young people that college or careers deserve their attention because of a lack of fair wages and increased higher education costs.

Strengthening unions, pushing for fair wages, and backing policies that support Ohio's bottom 98% of earners will go a long way in addressing the issue, he said.

"Many of the small businesses and companies I talk to will say to me, 'I just don't have the skilled trained kids coming out of high schools,'" Mr. Miller said. "The problem is unions need to provide that, but they've been under assault for so long they're losing traction."

The winner of the primary will likely go up against Republican Rob Weber in November.

Subscribers Note: *This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's [Election Page](#) for more information on 2018 contests, including our [Key Races](#).*

Lawmaker Seeks Health Education Standards; OhioLINK Announces Textbook Price Deal; OMA Backs Consolidation Bill

A Senate Democrat this week introduced legislation requiring the State Board of Education to develop health curriculum standards for K-12 schools, saying Ohio was the only state in the nation without such guidance.

Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) said his bill ([SB 287](#)) addresses that shortcoming, adding that health education is the only subject area in Ohio's system without academic content standards.

"This legislation would help students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle," Sen. Sykes said in a statement. "By not having health education standards, Ohio is missing an opportunity to improve the health of its citizens. Given our state's ongoing opioid crisis, a more thorough health education could certainly help to prevent and curb addiction."

The legislator pointed to a Health Policy Institute of Ohio finding that the state ranks 43rd in a composite measure of population health. The state ranks second in opioid death overdoses, he said.

"Without the guidance from state standards, health education is often a forgotten content area leading to an outdated and ineffective curriculum. Research has found that about half of health education teachers either have a curriculum that is outdated or is not readily available," Kevin Lorson, Wright State University professor and past president of the Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, said in the release issued by Sen. Sykes. "This bill aligns the entire health education curriculum to ensure our students have the skills to make healthy choices throughout their life."

Health standards established under the bill would provide a framework for educators to follow when establishing district-specific curriculum that promotes health-enhancing behavior at all grade levels, according to the sponsor.

The measure allows schools to opt out, and would not impact current laws governing sexual education, Sen. Sykes said.

Textbook Pricing: A new deal struck between textbook publishers and Ohio's academic universities has the potential to save students nearly \$40 million a year, according to the OhioLINK consortium.

The group, which includes 120 libraries at 91 Ohio colleges and universities and is part of the Ohio Department of Higher Education's OH-TECH consortium, said the savings come through negotiated statewide wholesale price agreements with four major textbook publishers.

The agreements reduce the wholesale price of e-textbooks to participating colleges and retailers by up to 80% and courseware up to 55%, OhioLINK reported.

"The cost of textbooks has an impact on not only a student's overall college costs, but also the rate of that student's success. Knowing that, we have made reducing textbook costs one of our top priorities, and it's a primary way to make higher education more affordable for all students," ODHE Chancellor John Carey said.

"This announcement from OhioLINK has the potential to positively impact thousands of students. In addition, our higher education libraries have been leaders in other affordable learning initiatives such as open educational resources and alt-textbook programs, and OhioLINK is supporting those as well."

The consortium said the wholesale pricing model "was developed to lessen variances in both institutional budgets and institutional readiness to implement inclusive access, a course content solution that gives students access to classroom materials from day one."

"Service to students is our motivation, and making affordable learning easier for institutions is our goal. It's a price agreement and thus an opportunity for our members; it is not a mandate," OhioLINK Executive Director Gwen Evans. "It allows institutions to do what they are already doing with inclusive access, only at a lower price."

OhioLINK said it concentrated on publishers with demonstrated cost savings across 91 higher education institutions, with priority given to high enrollment in lower division courses and a title catalog widely assigned in Ohio. This first round of wholesale price agreements includes four of the five largest global academic publishers: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., McGraw-Hill Education, Pearson and Macmillan Learning.

"We're excited to be part of this innovative, statewide initiative that benefits Ohio students by making effective learning materials more accessible and affordable," said Bill Okun, president of higher education at McGraw-Hill Education. "The OhioLINK model supports our focus on increasing student success, and we hope it will serve as an example for other states."

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) lauded the agreement in a statement accompanying the consortium's release.

"I appreciate OhioLINK's leadership in offering a new inclusive access statewide pricing agreement for college textbooks," Rep. Duffey said. "This competitive market will help lower the cost of textbooks for Ohio's college students, while ensuring students still have the option to buy books elsewhere if they choose."

For more information on how to participate, member institutions are asked to contact publishers directly. ODHE also provided a fact sheet with individual points of contact as well as answers to common questions on pricing and participation.

OMA on Consolidation: The Ohio Manufacturers' Association's Board of Directors recently endorsed the plan (HB 512) to create the Department of Learning and Achievement by merging the current departments of Education and Higher Education and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.

"The accountability system for education and workforce development is clearly fragmented. Any disjointed accountability system can contribute to redundancies and waste, disjointed goals and metrics, and a misalignment of strategy and operations," the group said in a statement. "The integration proposed by House Bill 512 is intended to repair this fragmented accountability system. For that reason, the OMA board of directors supports the bill."

"However, manufacturers know from experience that organizational integrations are hard work. Simply changing organizational structure does not assure achievement of desired organizational outcomes, or even improvement," OMA added.

"To be successful, integration needs to be accompanied by establishment of clear goals and effective metrics, development of organizational culture, and deployment of management systems that engage stakeholders and drive toward results. The OMA board of directors encourages the sponsors of House Bill 512 to attend to these elements of success that should accompany structural reform for the benefit of all stakeholders, including students and their families, educators, the community and its employers."

AEP, Consumers' Counsel Spar Over Rate Refundability

The debate over whether unlawful charges should be refunded to utility consumers is playing out again before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

The latest dustup in the long running back-and-forth between utility companies and the Ohio Consumers' Counsel is spelled out in a case tied to quarterly updates AEP is requesting for rates of its Power Purchase Agreement rider. (Docket)

PUCO staff this month recommended approval of the new rates, which would become effective in April. But the OCC filed a request for the commission to amend the company's plan to subject those charges to potential refund.

The OCC in its latest filing opines AEP's proposal "does not sufficiently protect consumers" and requests language be added stating: "Any charge collected from customers under this rider that are later determined to be unlawful, imprudent, or unreasonable by the PUCO or the Ohio Supreme Court is refundable to customers."

"On behalf of AEP's 1.2 million residential customers, the (OCC) recommends a more clear, concise, and understandable modification to AEP's PPA rider tariff that will protect consumers from paying unreasonable, imprudent or unlawful charges," the OCC wrote.

AEP in its response, however, contends the OCC's efforts are aimed in part at circumventing a pending Ohio Supreme Court case in which the counsel appealed the PUCO's 2017 approval of the rider. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, June 9, 2017](#))

"OCC is trying to achieve something well beyond addressing the implications of the Supreme Court's Ohio Edison decision," AEP contends. "In reality, OCC's proposed tariff language is an untimely and unlawful attempt to circumvent the controlling process for OCC's appeal of the PPA Rider pending before the Supreme Court."

The utility further argued that its plan "is consistent with the language proposed in several other AEP Ohio rider cases - all of which has been coordinated with (PUCO) staff."

"OCC objects to the proposed tariff language and seeks adoption of alternative tariff language that seeks to bypass prior commission ruling in this proceeding and unlawfully circumvent mandatory requirements under (Revised Code)," the company wrote.

But the consumer advocate contends that argument doesn't hold water.

"While the language AEP proposes may be consistent with what it has proposed in other rider cases, that has no bearing on whether the language is sufficient to protect consumers," the OCC wrote. "It is not."

The counsel also voiced concern over whether the utility coordinated its proposal with PUCO staff, opining that "AEP should not be permitted to separately negotiate with any individual party, including staff."

The question of refundability stems from court precedent established in 1957's *Keco Industries, Inc. v. Cincinnati & Suburban Bell Tel. Co.* The issue has led the OCC and other advocates to support pending legislation (HB 247) that would undo that ruling - a proposal utilities have rallied against. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, January 16, 2018](#))

Business Interests Criticize FirstEnergy Plant Closings; FERC Responds To Ohio Delegates' Nuclear Concerns...

Two statewide business groups are the latest to weigh in on FirstEnergy's announcement it will deactivate its two Ohio nuclear plants, in the process pushing back against suggestions that the fault lies with state policymakers.

FirstEnergy Solutions this week announced it will close the Davis-Besse and Perry plants along with a third plant in Pennsylvania by 2021 and urged policymakers to pursue stalled legislation to grant cost recovery for those plants. (SB 128, HB 178 & HB 381) (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, March 29, 2018](#))

On Friday, the Ohio Manufacturers' Association and the National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio issued a joint statement criticizing the company and its appeal to the Department of Energy to step in and enact new supports to buoy the plants' financial health.

"We take no joy in First Energy Solutions' recent announcement, but make no mistake - it is not the inaction of Ohio policymakers that led to this," OMA President Eric Burkland said. "Ohio decided nearly 20 years ago to

move to a competitive energy market. Many generation companies have successfully adapted and continue to thrive. And Ohio energy customers are, without question, coming out ahead."

Added NFIB/Ohio Executive Director Roger Geiger: "This is what happens in competitive markets in every other business sector."

"Companies that adapt and modernize succeed," Mr. Geiger continued. "Those that fail to cannot survive. We cannot ask Ohio energy customers, who paid billions of dollars for these plants on the front end, to now provide a bailout after decades of poor business planning."

FERC: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has responded to letters from several members of Congress urging the commission to take steps to support endangered nuclear plants.

FERC in January declined to act on the U.S. DOE's own proposal to enact new financial supports for nuclear plants, instead opting to open a new docket to explore the question in greater detail. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, January 9, 2018](#))

As part of that new proceeding, several members of the Ohio delegation wrote stating that new supports are needed. They included [U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur](#) (D-Toledo), [U.S. Rep. Dave Joyce](#) (R-Russell Twp.), [U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan](#) (D-Niles), and [U.S. Rep. Marcia Fudge](#) (D-Cleveland). (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, February 27, 2018](#))

FERC Chairman Kevin McIntyre responded to all four members with nearly identical responses thanking them for their letters and referencing the ongoing docket and another centered on wholesale electricity markets operated by eastern regional transmission organizations.

"Please be assured that the commission will evaluate the record from those proceedings to decide whether additional action is warranted," Mr. McIntyre wrote.

Fracking: A Yale School of Public Health [study](#) determined rates of two major sexually transmitted infections have a higher chance of being found in Ohio counties with high shale gas activity.

The study, published in the journal *PLOS One*, found gonorrhea and chlamydia rates were 21% and 19% higher in those counties respectively. There were no elevated rates of a third STI examined: syphilis.

Researchers attributed that to the large influx of specialized workers into those rural counties to meet labor demands. Those workers, they conjecture, "typically live and socialize in communities with masculinized social norms, do not bring families, and thus have opportunities to seek other sex partners and may have few emotional ties to the local community."

"Beyond some of the more familiar concerns about water quality and earthquakes, this report of increased rates of two major sexually transmitted infections suggests another potential health impact in communities hosting the emerging shale gas industry," said lead author Nicole Deziel, Ph.D., assistant professor at the Yale School of Public Health.

'Toy Vehicle' Ordinance Upheld; OSBA Weighs In On Civil Liability Case; Franklin County Announces LGBTQ Intervention Program...

A southwestern Ohio city's ban on "toy vehicles" on public roadways and lots is constitutional, an appellate court ruled this week.

The First District Court of Appeals [upheld](#) a Blue Ash ban on "roller skates, or riding in or by any means of any sled, toy vehicle, skateboard or similar device" unless designated as "play street" or "play lot."

The case rose to the appellate court level after Matthew Price in 2016 was struck by a vehicle while riding a motorized skateboard. Mr. Price was cited for violating the toy vehicle ordinance and appealed his minor

misdeemeanor citation to Hamilton County Municipal Court.

The trial court struck down the ordinance as unconstitutional for violating the "right of movement and personal enjoyment." The court also found it to be "void for vagueness," the Ohio Supreme Court reported.

The city challenged that ruling at the appellate court level, where a three-judge panel unanimously overturned the trial court.

Writing for the majority, Judge Dennis Deters said laws can place restrictions on modes of travel.

"A burden on a mode of transportation, here toy vehicles, does not implicate the right to travel. The toy-vehicle ordinance does not unconstitutionally infringe on citizens' right to travel, and the trial court erred in so holding," he wrote.

He also took issue with the court's decision on voiding the ordinance for vagueness.

"Although the toy-vehicle ordinance does not specifically mention motorized skateboards among the prohibited modes of transportation on streets, nothing in the ordinance suggests that the prohibition is limited to human-powered modes of transportation," he wrote. "Thus, a motorized device could fall within the confines of the ordinance."

Judges Marilyn Zayas and Charles Miller joined the opinion.

Civil Liability: The Ohio School Boards Association has weighed in on a case that could determine whether state law imposes civil liability on a school board for not reporting known or suspected child abuse to children services or law enforcement.

In an amicus brief filed with the Ohio Supreme Court the OSBA said the law clearly does not impose any duty to report on a school board. (Docket)

"As a matter of law and public policy, requiring a school board itself to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect would require deliberations through the Ohio Open Meetings Act which itself would be an affront to the express statutory and public policy obligation that all statutorily mandated reporters must immediately report known or suspected child abuse or neglect," the OSBA wrote.

The case was filed in federal court by several Olentangy Local School District parents on behalf of their children, who were abused by former teacher Matthew Rausenberg, who in 2016 was sentenced to life in prison.

The federal district court certified the case to the high court.

Intervention Program: The Franklin County Municipal Court will have the nation's first LGBTQ domestic violence intervention program, it announced.

The program was made possible by funding provided by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.

Disciplinary Hearings: The Board of Professional Conduct announced three disciplinary hearings are scheduled for April.

CLE Requirements: The high court's media arm reported that attorneys out of compliance with continuing legal education requirements for the period ending Dec. 31, 2017 have until April 2 to complete their hours, file a late compliance reporting form and submit the late fee by May 2 or face sanctions.

Agency Briefs: Senators Urge Quick Action On Disaster Declaration; Auditor; Labor Force; PUCO; SOS

Ohio's two U.S. senators have asked President Donald Trump to request a quick approval of Gov. John Kasich's request for a disaster declaration in response to last month's flooding.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) and U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said the declaration would ensure people affected in 19 southern Ohio counties can access federal assistance and resources.

Gov. Kasich submitted the request Monday, citing damage to county, village and township infrastructure in the area of \$44 million, including \$20 million in costs related to impacted state highways. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 26, 2018)

"Severe storms and extreme rainfall last month in southern Ohio led to significant flooding, causing substantial damage to critical infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and buildings," the senators wrote. "The state and local governments in the affected areas do not have the capability to sufficiently respond to this major disaster, and therefore, federal assistance is necessary to supplement the state's recovery efforts."

State Auditor: Dave Yost announced an audit that found the Cuyahoga Falls City School District was charged \$2,618 in penalties for late payments and overcharges to a district credit card.

Auditors ordered former Treasurer David Hoskin to repay the school district for the cost of the late fees, delinquency charges and over-limit fees because the payments don't serve a proper public purpose. The audit found the American Express card in Hoskin's name incurred the penalties, which were paid with district funds from 2014-2016.

"Taxpayers should never have to pay a cent for a penalty assessed to a local government," State Auditor Yost said in a statement. "It's time for this treasurer to rectify the situation by making the district whole."

An audit of Fairfield Union Local School District in Fairfield County ordered a former high school cheerleading coach to repay \$1,880 in missing revenue.

Amanda Waddell collected payments from the team for clothing and a cheerleading camp, but she never submitted \$2,780 for the district to deposit, the auditor's office said. She resigned in October 2017 after officials questioned her about the discrepancy, and officials withheld \$900 from her salary.

"Too often, revenue shortages like this aren't uncovered until an audit team comes knocking on the door," Mr. Yost said. "The district should be commended for its vigilance and appropriate handling of the matter."

The audit also made a referral to the Ohio Ethics Commission after records showed several checks meant for the district were made out to Ms. Waddell or her business.

State Auditor Yost also announced a former fiscal officer for York Township in Belmont County has been indicted in connection with paying her mother and another person with money they had not earned.

Dawn Lee faces 27 counts, including theft in office, and her mother and another person were also indicted by a Belmont County grand jury.

Ms. Lee was indicted on charges connected to the misuse of township credit cards, overpayment of wages and miscellaneous reimbursements, failing to file income taxes, and failure to remit income taxes.

The auditor also announced the sentencing of a former volunteer treasurer who stole money from two groups associated with the Shawnee Local School District in Allen County.

Heather O'Connor was sentenced to five years of probation and ordered to pay \$51,419 in restitution after pleading guilty to grand theft in February. She admitted to stealing \$77,587 from the district's parent-teacher committee and \$9,277 from the Little Indians Volleyball Association. She had previously paid back \$35,455.

Labor Force: Unemployment rates dropped in 83 counties, increased in four and remained constant in one county from January to February, according to data released by the Department of Job & Family Services.

Mercer County had the lowest rate at 2.9%, with Delaware, Auglaize, Hancock, Holmes, Union and Wyandot counties also at or below 3.5%.

Monroe County's rate of 10.4% was the state's highest. Others above 8% included Meigs, Noble, Morgan and Ottawa counties.

Public Utilities: The PUCO scheduled two local public hearings to give customers a chance to voice their views on Dayton Power & Light Company's proposal to increase its rates for electric distribution service.

Hearings are set for May 8 and 10 at the Dayton Municipal Building. Comments can also be submitted online or by mail.

An evidentiary hearing is set for May 14 at the PUCO offices in Columbus. More information is available [online](#).

Secretary of State: Jon Husted released a public service announcement [video](#) demonstrating how a single vote can make a difference in local elections.

The PSA is part of an effort to raise awareness of the importance of voting and how easy it is to vote.

"With 140 races in Ohio being decided on by one vote or tied since 2013, every vote matters," Secretary Husted said in a statement. "We hope that our work inspires more Ohioans to play an active role in our democracy."

Ohio Statehouse: The Statehouse Museum Shop has launched a new [website](#). Items for sale in the shop, including Ohio foods, collectibles, apparel and books, are also for sale online.

Governor's Appointments

Children's Trust Fund Board: Jennifer R. Justice of Westerville (Delaware Co.) for a term beginning March 29 and ending July 2, 2018.

Ohio Business Gateway Steering Committee: Matthew J. Davis of Cincinnati (Hamilton Co.) for a term beginning March 29 and continuing to serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Owens Community College Board of Trustees: Charles L. Bills of Findlay (Hancock Co.) for a term beginning April 12 and ending Sept. 21, 2020.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, April 3

Construction Industry Licensing Board, OCILB Conf. Rm., 6606 Tussing Rd., Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (Electrical Section)

Wednesday, April 4

Construction Industry Licensing Board, OCILB Conf. Rm., 6606 Tussing Rd., Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (Plumbing Section)

Thursday, April 5

Construction Industry Licensing Board, OCILB Conf. Rm., 6606 Tussing Rd., Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (HVAC Section)

Friday, April 6

Board of Building Standards, BBS Library, 6606 Tussing Rd., Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (Electrical Safety Inspector Advisory Committee)

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, April 2

Kasich to participate in Axios event, "Smarter Faster Revolution," discussing rapid changes to workforce across America, Ohio Union, Ohio State University, 1739 N. High St., Columbus, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, April 4

50-Year Legacy: an MLK Memorial Event to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the 50th anniversary of his assassination., Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 12 p.m.

Thursday, April 5

Ohio Children's Trust Fund's Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Kickoff Event, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Ohio Justice Reinvestment Committee meeting and State Summit on Public Safety, State Room, Statehouse, Columbus, 12:30 p.m., (The Council of State Governments Justice Center will present data on Ohio crime trends and discussions centered around policing and violence as well as ways the state can improve behavioral health responses in the criminal justice system.)


Thursday, April 12

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, Buckeye Bourbon House, 36 E. Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host \$1000, Sponsor \$500, Guest \$250 to Citizens with Fedor)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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GONGWER Ohio
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Senate Activity for Friday, March 30, 2018

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

SB 22 ■ TAX LAWS (Peterson, B.) To allow tax deductible contributions to Ohio 529 plans for K-12 (Enacted) education expenses, and to declare an emergency.

Signed: March 30, 2018; Effective: Immediately

SB 143 ■ DAY DESIGNATION (Eklund, J.) To designate September 25 as 'International Ataxia Awareness (Enacted) Day' in Ohio.

Signed: March 30, 2018; Effective: In 90 days

SB 226 ■ TAX LAWS (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during (Enacted) which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax, to authorize a county school financing district property tax for school safety, security, and mental health services, and to declare an emergency.

Signed: March 30, 2018; Effective: Immediately

endbrief>

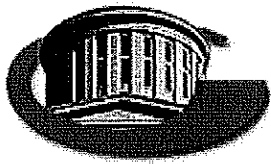
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Event Planner

Monday, April 2

Kasich to participate in Axios event, "Smarter Faster Revolution," discussing rapid changes to workforce across America, Ohio Union, Ohio State University, 1739 N. High St., Columbus, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, April 4

50-Year Legacy: an MLK Memorial Event to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the 50th anniversary of his assassination., Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 12 p.m.

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) fundraiser with special guest secretary of state candidate Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson), Mr. Spots, 206 N. Main St., Bowling Green, 5 p.m., (Host: \$1000, Sponsors:\$500; Patron:\$250; Couple: \$100; Individual:\$50 to Citizens for Gavarone)

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) Congressional fundraiser, Columbus Club, 181 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Chair: \$2,700, Host: \$1,000, Guest: \$500 to Bacon for Congress)

Thursday, April 5

Ohio Children's Trust Fund April Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Kickoff Event, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Ohio Children's Trust Fund's Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Kickoff Event, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Ohio Justice Reinvestment Committee meeting and State Summit on Public Safety, State Room, Statehouse, Columbus, 12:30 p.m., (The Council of State Governments Justice Center will present data on Ohio crime trends and discussions centered around policing and violence as well as ways the state can improve behavioral health responses in the criminal justice system.)

Rep. James Hoops (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, JJ Winns Restaurant, 13508 State Route 15, Montpelier, 6 p.m., (Couple:\$100; Person:\$50 to Campaign to Elect James M. Hoops)

Tuesday, April 10

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$750; Chair: \$500 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)

Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) and Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Crystal, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Gardner Committee and/or Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

Rep. Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) fundraiser, The Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor: \$500; Chair: \$350 to McClain for Ohio)

Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus fundraiser, Condado Tacos, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1,000, \$500 or \$350)

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Buckeye Bourbon House, 36 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Miami University College Republicans alumni reception, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

Ohio Association of Realtors legislative reception, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 5:15 p.m.

Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.) & Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, The Goat, 219 S. High Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$1000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Janine Boyd and Friends of Stephanie Howse)

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Miami University's Middletown campus, Middletown, 7 p.m., (Cosponsored by WLWT and the Journal-News, the town hall-style event will be live-streamed on the newspaper's website.)

Wednesday, April 11

Ohio General Assembly Cancer Caucus, Senate Finance Hearing Room, Statehouse, Columbus, 8 a.m., (The committee will hear presentations and engage in conversation on the role of opioids in cancer treatment, palliative care efforts in cancer treatment and discussion of field visits to local cancer centers)

Rep. Bernadine Kent (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$250 to Kent for Ohio. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

Ohio Library Council Legislative Day, Statehouse and Capital Club, 50 S. Front St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Condado, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser with special guest Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls), The Goat, 219 S. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1000; Host:\$500; Chair:\$350 to Lanese for Ohio)

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) and Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) fundraiser, The Buckeye Bourdon House, 36 E. Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee and Citizens for Perales)

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) & Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Peterson for Good Government and/or Steve Wilson for Ohio)

Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) fundraiser, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1,000; \$500; \$350)

Thursday, April 12

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Chair: \$500 to Friends for Schuring Committee)

Cheryl Buckland, GOP candidate for the 83rd House District, fundraiser with special guest Speaker Jo Ann Davidson, Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host:\$1000; Sponsor:\$500; Patron:\$350; Attendee:\$100 to Buckland for State Representative)

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, Buckeye Bourbon House, 36 E. Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host \$1000,Sponsor \$500,Guest \$250 to Citizens with Fedor)

Friday, April 13

Ohio Democratic Party Legacy Dinner, Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 N. High St., Columbus, (Keynote speaker: Former Attorney General Eric Holder)

Tuesday, April 17

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, The Athletic Club 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Gold: \$2,000; Silver: \$1,000; Bronze: \$500 to Seitz for Ohio)

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)

Wednesday, April 18

Ohio University State Government Alumni Luncheon, Athletic Club, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Social: 11:30 am; Luncheon: 12 pm)

Ohio Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception, Sheridan Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, 3:30 p.m., (3:30 Annual Meeting; 5:30 Legislative Reception)

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) & Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Hottinger and/or Friends of Matt Dolan)

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus fundraiser hosted by New Visions Group, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Host \$1000, Friend \$500, Supporter \$250, Young Professional \$25 to OLBC-Political Action Fund)

Thursday, April 19

YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse, Columbus

YMCA Youth & Government 5th Annual Statehouse Family Feud, Renaissance Hotel Columbus, 50 N. Third St., Columbus, 11:45 a.m.

Friday, April 20

YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse, Columbus

Saturday, April 21

YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, April 24

OAHU Annual Day at the Statehouse, Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 East State Street, Columbus

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$3,700; Sponsor: \$1,370 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Association 20th Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.

Ohio Chemistry Technology Council's 30th Annual Legislative Reception, Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel, 50 North Third Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Advocacy Day, Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Davidson Theatre, Columbus

Tuesday, May 1

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Wednesday, May 2**Pro-life Legislative Day****Tuesday, May 8****Primary election day****Thursday, May 10****YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus****Friday, May 11****YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus****Saturday, May 12****YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus****Tuesday, May 15****Deadline for most public officials and employees to file personal financial disclosure statements.****Ohio Association of Health Plans Annual Legislative Reception**, Statehouse Rotunda, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Please RSVP to Stacy Bewley at sbewley@oahp.org or for any questions call (614) 228-4662.)**Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser**, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-429-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)**Wednesday, May 16****Ohio Auctioneers Association legislative day****Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser**, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)

2018 Arts Day & Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio Luncheon, The Columbus Athenaeum, 32 North Fourth Street, Columbus, 12 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Reception & Technology Demo, 77 S. High St., Capitol Theater Lobby, Columbus, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 23

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent Smith Committee)

Thursday, May 24

Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, May 31

JLEC Deadline for filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Friday, June 1

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, June 4

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) golf outing fundraiser

Friday, June 8

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, June 11

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser

Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus

Tuesday, June 12

Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus

Monday, June 18

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, June 25

Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) golf outing fundraiser

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville

Monday, July 16

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, July 19

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) Batter Up fundraiser

Friday, July 20

Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) golf outing fundraiser

Sunday, July 22

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Monday, July 23

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, July 24

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Wednesday, July 25

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, July 26

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) golf outing fundraiser

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Friday, July 27

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, August 7

Special election for 12th Congressional District seat

Thursday, August 16

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, August 20

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, August 23

Hamilton County GOP State Legislative golf outing fundraiser

Saturday, September 1

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Monday, October 1

JLEC Deadline for filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Report

Tuesday, November 6

General election day

Saturday, December 1

Lobbyists can begin renewing Legislative, Executive and Retirement System registrations for 2019

Monday, December 31

All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC

All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

House Activity for Friday, March 30, 2018

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

HB 24 ■ **BUDGET UPDATE** (Ginter, T.) To modify the existing tax exemption for veterans organizations' (Enacted) property, to make appropriations and otherwise provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs, and to declare an emergency.

Signed: March 30, 2018; Effective: Immediately

HB 98 ■ **CAREER INFORMATION** (Duffey, M., Boggs, K.) Regarding the presentation of career (Enacted) information to students, the calculation of Ohio College Opportunity Grant awards, and careertechnical educator licenses; to modify degree requirements for interim career-technical teachers; to provide an additional payment to school districts with nuclear power plants in their territories that meet specified criteria; and to modify the earmarked appropriations for certain payments to school districts.

Signed: March 30, 2018; Effective: In 90 days

HB 194 ■ **LICENSE PLATES** (Johnson, T., Craig, H.) To establish a program for the issuance of special license (Enacted) plates related to military service and awards and to modify the law that governs the nonprofit corporation organized to operate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus.

Signed: March 30, 2018; Effective: In 90 days

HB 529 ■ **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Ryan, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law (Enacted) governing capital projects and to make reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2020.

Signed: March 30, 2018; Effective: In 90 days

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GONGWER Ohio
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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, March 31- Monday, April 2

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Monday, April 2

State Board of Education, Rm. 102, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 1 p.m. (Executive Committee)

Event Planner

Monday, April 2

Kasich to participate in Axios event, "Smarter Faster Revolution," discussing rapid changes to workforce across America, Ohio Union, Ohio State University, 1739 N. High St., Columbus, 11 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Center Correspondence: Center to Restore the Balance of Government - 4/4/18

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <tmclaughlin@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 11:35 AM

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).

Center to Restore the Balance of Government
April 4, 2018



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Chairman's Corner

A Message from Iowa House Speaker and Chair of the ALEC Center to Restore the Balance of Government Linda Upmeyer

Federalism is the linchpin of America's system of governance. It is woven so seamlessly into the fabric of our nation that it escapes notice until the delicate balance between local, state and national governance is disrupted. In spite of its impact on almost every aspect of our lives, federalism is often treated as a lofty concept, rather than a common sense system that employs the simple logic that real solutions are found in the fifty laboratories of democracy, not one-size fits all federal government policies that disregard regional differences and local community needs. The Chairman's Corner exposes the challenges that state lawmakers face every day and seeks to provide pragmatic best practices for our legislator readers and to underscore federalism's real world implications for non-legislator readers.

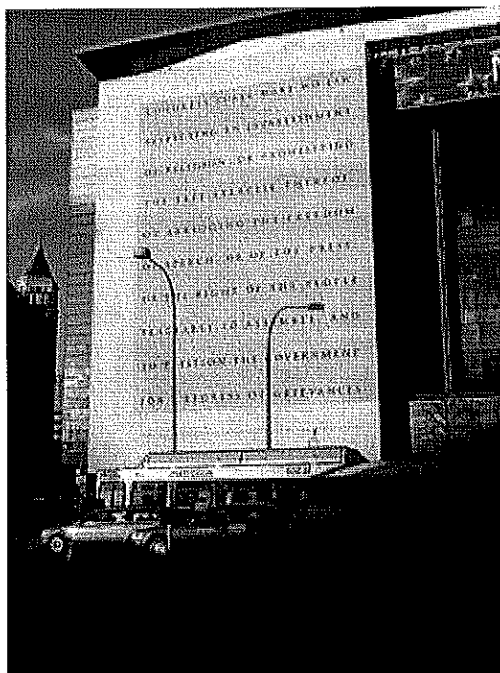
The latest installment in the series, [Investing in Infrastructure, can be accessed here.](#)

International Democracy

Freedom of the Press is Often the First Casualty

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations Task Force

Whether well-established or nascent, faltering democracies share striking similarities on the path toward authoritarianism including an early delegitimizing of the media. Intuitively understanding the relationship between access to information and the long term success of liberal democracy, the framers of the U.S. Constitution included prohibitions against "abridging freedom of ... the press" in the First Amendment. Unfortunately, autocrats also fear the power of a free press and view media repression as a high priority. In the coming weeks, Malaysia's legislature will consider legislation that calls for prison terms of up to six years for disseminating "fake news" loosely defined as news, information, data or reports that are "wholly or partially false." Images and audio, including foreign content that could affect

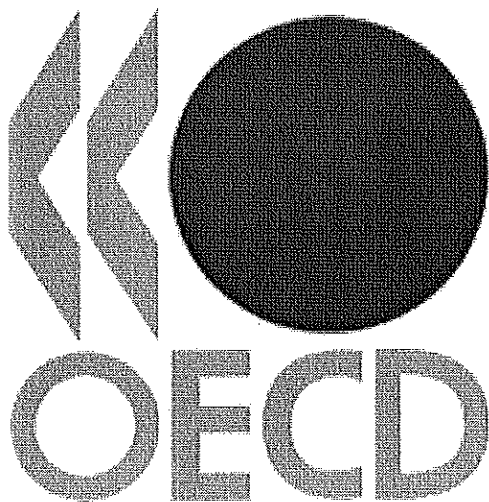


Malaysia would be designated as "fake news" even minus evidence that the alleged falsehood caused harm. **Read more about Malaysia's authoritarian slide here.**

Intellectual Property Update

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Releases Report on Illicit Trade

Karla Jones | Federalism and International Relations Task Force



Enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, intellectual property rights are part of America's constitutional heritage. Millions of American jobs owe their existence to the innovation economy and IP-intensive industries tend to offer higher wages than other industries. With globalization, strong domestic IP rights protections are no longer sufficient – America's economic partners also need to uphold similarly robust IP protection and enforcement standards. The OECD Task Force on Countering Illicit Trade Policy released a report in March "Governance Frameworks to Counter Illicit Trade" that is an invaluable resource for those interested in learning more about the consequences of illicit trade and steps governments around the world can take to counter intellectual property theft and counterfeits. **Read more here.**

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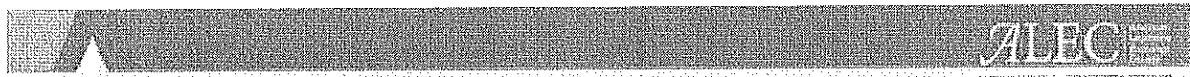
Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

This Week At ALEC - 4/5/2018

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <tmclaughlin@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 1:07 PM

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).

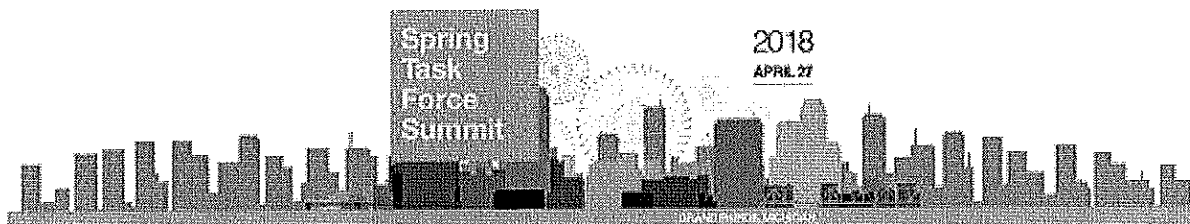
ALEC Digital Exchange - April 5, 2018



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Online Sales Tax

ALEC Submits Amicus Curiae Brief on Online Sales Tax Case (South Dakota v. Wayfair)
American Legislative Exchange Council

No. 17-104

IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States

SOUTH DAKOTA,
Petitioner,

v.

WAYFAIR, INC. ET AL.
Respondent.

On Writ of Certiorari to the
Supreme Court of South Dakota

BRIEF AMICUS CURIAE FOR THE
AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL
IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT

JONATHAN P. HAUENSCHILD
Counsel of Record
JOEL GRIFFITH
BARTLETT CLELAND
AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL
2800 Crystal Dr., Ste. 600,
Arlington, VA 22202
Main - (703) 373-0933
jhauenschild@alec.org
Counsel for Amicus Curiae

The American Legislative Exchange Council yesterday **submitted an Amicus Brief to the Supreme Court** urging the physical presence standard be upheld, as last ruled in *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota*. If the Court decides to rule against the physical presence standard in the upcoming case *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, states will be able to reach across their borders and heavily tax main street businesses, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. The brief was authored by Counsel of Record Jonathon Hauenschild, Joel Griffith and Bartlett Cleland. "The roughly 12,000 state and local taxing jurisdictions across our nation present a clear and present danger to interstate commerce if they would be allowed to subject out of state businesses to their tax collection rules and regulations," said Jonathan Williams, ALEC Chief Economist and Vice President of the Center for State Fiscal Reform.

State Legislators, please consider signing the open legislator letter below concerning Online Sales Tax collection.

[Read Press Release](#)[Read Letter](#)

Legislator Voices

Investing in Infrastructure

Iowa Speaker Linda Upmeyer



"Perhaps the most important aspect of President Trump's plan is providing states with the flexibility and authority to identify the infrastructure projects that they need most. This will empower states and localities to invest in projects that they want, without being burdened by the Federal Government. This plan will reduce red tape and bureaucracy, allow for more innovation, keep the cost of projects below budget, and get projects done quicker."

[Read Article](#)

STFS 2018

Be a Part of the Process at Spring Task Force Summit



Draft Model Policy is now live on the ALEC

website. Review the policies, then come join us at Spring Task Force Summit and make sure your voice is heard in the debate. Register soon, the summit takes place **April 26th, in Grand Rapids, MI**. Contact Mason Hunt with any questions about the conference.

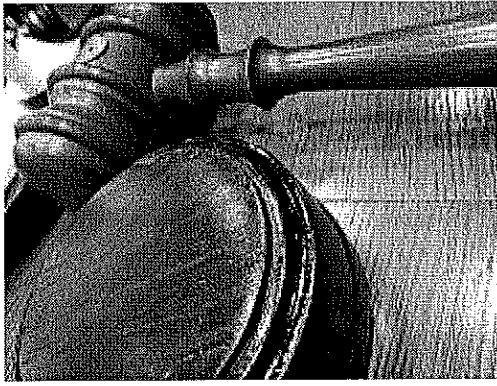
[Register Here](#)

Occupational Licensing Reform

Louisiana Takes Positive Step to Remove Occupational Licensing Barriers

Ronald J. Lampard | Criminal Justice

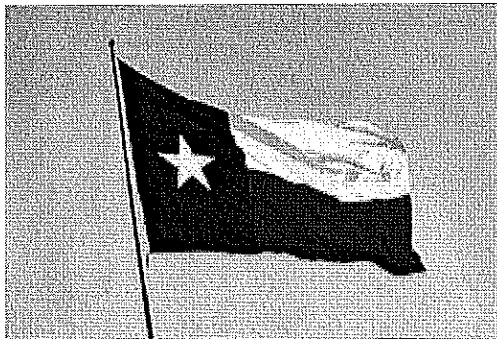
The Pelican State is the last remaining state in the country that makes it illegal to be a florist without having a license. The fact that an individual could be prevented from merely trying to make a living as a florist to support themselves simply does not serve taxpayers well. Fortunately, Louisiana has undertaken addressing this barrier to employment opportunities.


[Read Article](#)

State of the State Analyses

Center for State Fiscal Reform Continues State of the State Analysis

Center for State Fiscal Reform



The Center for State Fiscal Reform continues its series of State of the State Analyses. The Center breaks down gubernatorial addresses, compares them to their records, and highlights both strong and weak fiscal policy in these states. New this week are **Connecticut** and **Texas**. To see all analyses to date, follow the link below.

[View Articles](#)

ALEC CARE

Constituent Relations and Management at Your Fingertips



ALEC CARE | CONSTITUENT ANALYTICS AND RESEARCH EXCHANGE

Gravity CRM and ALEC CARE is a web-based system that helps elected officials better connect with their constituents, gain insight into your constituents' needs, and manage your district more effectively, from anywhere.



ALEC's wealth of resources doesn't stop with model policy. As an additional benefit, we are letting all members know that we've constructed an online platform for your daily constituent management tasks. The accounts we provide are specifically designed for your district, with pre-populated constituent profiles, allowing you to fill in notes, retain contact information, and even track issues of concern. To learn more and activate your personal account today, contact our C.A.R.E. Associate, Aaron Gillham, at agillham@alec.org.

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Making Maryland Move

Delegate Trent Kittleman | MD-9A

This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce **Maryland Delegate Trent Kittleman**. Delegate Kittleman cares about



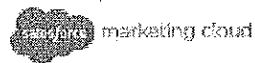
growing business and prosperity in Maryland. She started her career writing a political column, and now serves on a number of committees dedicated to improving her state. When asked about her column, she said, "even now, I wouldn't change a word."

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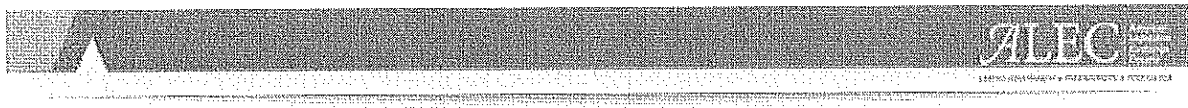
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Events and Education: April 10, 2018



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ALEC in Action

Jonathan Williams Speaking Today at Heritage on Tax Reform in Kansas

Jonathan Williams | Center for State Fiscal Reform



ALEC Chief Economist and Vice President of the Center for State Fiscal Reform **Jonathan Williams** was part of a panel at The Heritage Foundation on: *What Was Really the Matter with the Kansas Tax Plan: The Undoing of a Good Idea*. The panel took place today, April 10th, 2018 at 12:30PM. It will also be livestreamed on www.heritage.org

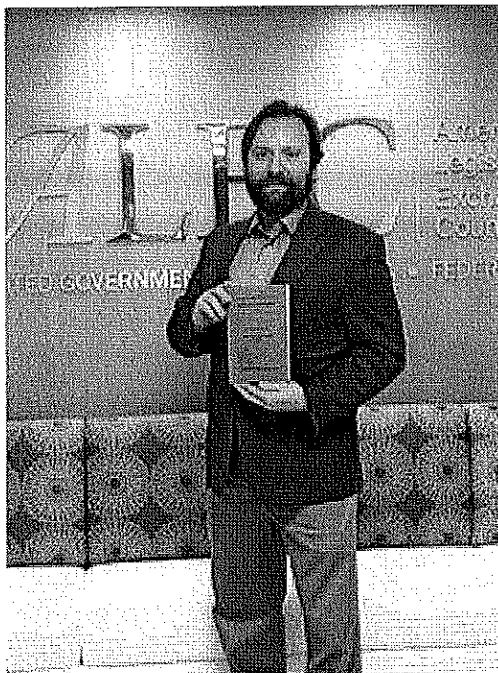
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Online Sales Tax Update

ALEC Submits Amicus Curiae Brief on Online Sales Tax Case (South Dakota v. Wayfair)

American Legislative Exchange Council

The American Legislative Exchange Council last week **submitted an Amicus Brief to the Supreme Court** urging the physical presence standard be upheld, as last ruled in *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota*. If the Court decides to rule against the physical presence standard in the upcoming case *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, states will be able to reach across their borders and **heavily tax** main street businesses, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. The brief was authored by Counsel of Record Jonathon Hauenschild (pictured), Joel Griffith and Bartlett Cleland.

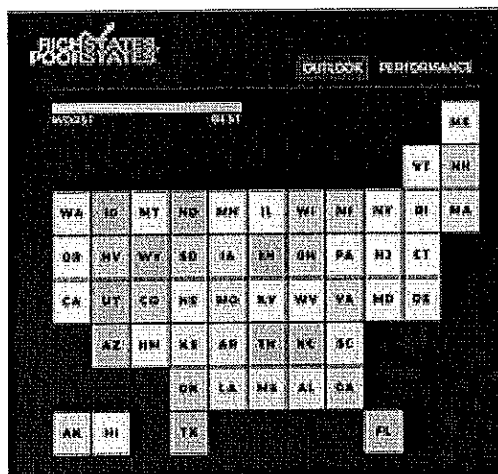


State Legislators, please consider signing the open legislator letter below concerning Online Sales Tax collection.

[Sign the Letter](#)

Rich States Poor States 11th Edition

Rich States, Poor States 11th Edition Legislator Call Coming Up



The 11th edition of *Rich States, Poor States* is coming next week, on April 17. Coalition partners and legislators can get an early look at the data on a conference call with the report authors **next Monday, April 16, at 10:00 AM**. Details for the call are forthcoming, but please RSVP here if you'd like further information.

[RSVP for Call](#)

STFS 2018

Register Now for the Spring Task Force Summit and Become Part of the Process

Draft Model Policy is now live on the ALEC website. Review the policies for each task force, then register to come join ALEC at the Spring Task Force Summit and make sure your voice is heard in the debate. Register soon, the summit takes place **April 26th, in Grand Rapids, MI**. Contact Mason Hunt with any questions about the conference.

In addition, this year, to improve your conference experience, ALEC is launching a



new app with meeting information, agendas, bios and more. Stay tuned for the app launch in the coming weeks

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Gmail - House Floor Report



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News Bill Tracking Legislation

HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

HR 391

WORKER VISAS (Young, R.)

To urge President Donald J. Trump, members of his administration, and the Congress of the United States to revise the requirements for the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker Visa Program established under the Immigration and Nationality Act to reduce the cost and regulatory impact on employers who utilize the Program. House Federalism & Interstate Relations

HCR 26

JERUSALEM (Faber, K., Keller, C.)

**To recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel.
House Federalism & Interstate Relations**

HCR 27

ASIAN CARP (Smith, K., Rogers, J.)
To express support for the United States Army Corps of Engineers in its efforts to stop the Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes and to support federal funding of those efforts.
House Energy & Natural Resources

HCR 28

LEGISLATIVE STAFF (Smith, K., Dever, J.)
To urge the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate to increase the compensation of House and Senate staff.
House Government Accountability & Oversight

INTRODUCED

HB 592

COURT RECORDS (Ramos, D.)
To permit sealing of records pertaining to multiple criminal offenses that resulted from drug-seeking behavior if the offender has successfully completed a drug treatment program and to name the act the Ohio Second Chance Act.

HB 593

DASHBOARD RECORDINGS (Ramos, D.)
To provide that portions of a peace officer's dashboard camera recordings that show an officer being killed or suffering grievous bodily harm in the line of duty are not public records and generally are confidential and may not be released.

HB 594

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS (Ramos, D.)
To provide for payments to municipalities or school districts for their lost income tax revenue after a business lays off 50 or more employees within their jurisdiction.

HB 595

ESTATE LAW (Cupp, R., Rezabek, J.)
Relative to procedures for a testator to file a declaratory judgment action to declare the validity of a will prior to death and the settlor of a trust to file such an action to declare its validity, exceptions to antilapse provisions in class gifts in wills and trusts, incorporation of a written trust into a will, trusts for a minor, arbitration of trust disputes, the creation of county and multicounty guardianship services boards, and coroner's disposition of person dying of suspicious or unusual death.

HB 596

ABSENTEE VOTING (Ramos, D.)
To specify the conditions under which a board of county commissioners may establish one or more branch offices of the board of elections for in-person absent voting.

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

HB 131

PHYSICAL THERAPY (Gavarone, T., Reineke, B.)
To modify the laws governing the practice of physical therapy.
Wednesday, April 11

HB 135

DAY DESIGNATION (Patmon, B.)
To designate June 12th as "Superman Day."
Wednesday, April 11

HB 263

OUTDOOR DINING AREAS (Lanese, L.)

To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation.

Wednesday, April 11

HB 318

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.)

To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers. Earlier REPORTED-AMENDED (See separate story)

HB 360

BULLYING (Greenspan, D.)

To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges.

Wednesday, April 11

HB 378

BROADBAND GRANTS (Smith, R., Cera, J.)

To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation.

Wednesday, April 11

HB 489

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (Dever, J.)

To provide some regulatory and tax relief to state banks and credit unions, to provide for data analytics to be conducted on publicly available information regarding banks, credit unions, and consumer finance companies, to modify when a creditor can file a claim against an estate, to require registration of mortgage loan servicers, and to require a specified notice be given to a debtor for certain debt collection.

Wednesday, April 11

HB 508

OHIO CORPS (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.)
To establish the hb Pilot Project and to make an appropriation.
Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (See separate story)

HR 193

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL (Antonio, N., Strahorn, F.)
A resolution urging Congress to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the late Senator John Glenn and Mrs. Annie Glenn.
Wednesday, April 11

HR 299

DRUG USE (Young, R., Ginter, T.)
To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community in supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction.
Wednesday, April 11

REFERRED

Aging & Long Term Care

SB 158

ELDER FRAUD (Wilson, S.)
To develop best practices and educational opportunities to combat elder fraud and exploitation and to fine and require full restitution from offenders who are found guilty of certain fraud-related crimes against the elderly.

HB 567

LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE (Fedor, T.)
To impose limitations on long-term care

HB 572

premium rate increases.

RETIREMENT CREDIT (Scherer, G., Howse, S.)
Regarding Public Employees Retirement System service credit for services as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities.

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security

HB 579

DAY DESIGNATION (Ramos, D.)
To declare November 23rd as "Fleet Admiral Ernest Joseph King Day."

Community & Family Advancement

HB 574

MEDICAID PAYMENTS (Ingram, C.)
To permit parents and guardians to be paid for providing personal care or similar services to their children or wards enrolled in a Medicaid waiver program under certain circumstances.

Criminal Justice

SB 244

PROSTITUTION (Dolan, M., Manning, G.)
To amend the penalties for promoting prostitution.

HB 561

SEX OFFENSES (Boggs, K., Lanese, L.)
To eliminate the spousal exceptions for the offenses of rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition, sexual imposition, and importuning and to permit a person to testify against the person's


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To authorize a law enforcement officer to arrest a driver of a motor vehicle if the officer has probable cause to believe that the driver committed a moving violation and that the moving violation was a contributing factor in a motor vehicle accident that caused serious physical harm to or the death of another person, to authorize the officer to request a warrant to conduct a chemical test to determine whether the driver was under the influence of drugs or alcohol if there is probable cause to do so, to authorize the officer to order the administration of a chemical test under specified circumstances, to require the mandatory bindover (for trial as an adult rather than a juvenile) of a 16- or 17- year-old who is alleged to have committed aggravated vehicular homicide, and to designate this act as "Sophie's Law."

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Regarding cigarette minimum pricing.



To limit the occupational license and registration requirements and fees that a political subdivision may impose on state-regulated occupations, to establish a waiver exempting certain persons from paying occupational license or registration fees, and to revise the

licensing restrictions applicable to individuals convicted of criminal offenses.

Education & Career Readiness

SB 216

SCHOOL REGULATIONS (Huffman, M.)
To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs.

Energy & Natural Resources

HB 562

PARK DRILLING (Leland, D.)
To prohibit the drilling of a horizontal well in various state and local parks.

HB 578

INJECTION WELLS (Holmes, G., O'Brien, M.)
To establish new setback requirements applicable to new Class II injection wells and to require thirty-seven and one-half per cent of the out-of-district injection well fee to be paid directly to the municipal corporation or township in which the injection well is located.

Federalism & Interstate Relations

HB 563

FIREARM SALES (West, T.)
To prohibit a federally licensed firearms dealer from transferring a firearm while a background check is pending unless 30 days have elapsed.

HB 564

FIREARM PURCHASES (West, T.)
To require a 72-hour waiting period between the purchase and delivery of firearms and to impose a fine for violating this requirement.

HB 580**GRANT APPLICATIONS (Thompson, A.)**

To establish procedures that executive agencies must follow when applying for grants, to require the Governor to approve any major grant application, and to permit the Governor to disapprove any minor grant application.

Government Accountability & Oversight**HB 576****MINIMUM WAGE (Kelly, B.)**

To increase the state minimum wage.

State & Local Government**HJR 14****INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS (Smith, K., Lepore-Hagan, M.)**

Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund sewer and water capital improvements.

Transportation & Public Safety**HB 570****LICENSE PLATE (Brown, R., Lipps, S.)**

To create the "Zero" license plate to benefit the nonprofit Zero, the End of Prostate Cancer.

HB 573**ROAD NAMING (Hoops, J.)**

To designate the portion of U.S. Route 24 in Henry County as the "Henry County Veterans Highway."

HB 577**ROAD NAMING (Landis, A.)**

To designate a portion of State Route 93 in Tuscarawas County as the "PFC Oscar F.

Nicewander Memorial Highway" and a portion of State Route 520 in Holmes County as the "Cpl. Jerry Robert Spittler Memorial Highway."

HB 581

LICENSE PLATE (Miller, A., Boggs, K.)
To create the "West High School Alumni Association" license plate and the "Central High School Alumni Association" license plate.

HB 582

ROAD NAMING (Green, D.)
To designate the portion of U.S. Route 52 in Clermont County the "Clermont County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway" and the portion of U.S. Route 52 in Brown County the "Brown County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway."

Ways & Means

HB 569

SERVICES TAX (Lipps, S., Reineke, B.)
To modify the standard for determining when the sales and use tax applies to business-related electronic services that are provided together with other services.

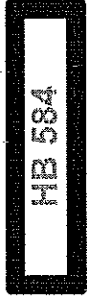
HB 571

LODGING TAXES (Greenspan, D.)
To specify that, for the purposes of the sales and use tax and local lodging taxes, the "price" on the basis of which a hotel intermediary must collect and remit the tax is the total amount paid by the customer for the hotel lodging, as advertised by the hotel intermediary.

HB 575

VOLUNTEER TAX CREDITS (Keller, C., Rezabek, J.)
To grant income tax credits to persons who

serve as volunteer firefighters or emergency medical service technicians.



TAX DEDUCTION (Cera, J., Rogers, J.)

To extend an existing income tax deduction for unsubsidized medical insurance premiums to Medicare premiums.

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION: RANDY RILEY

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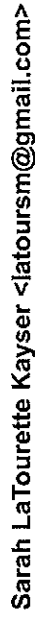
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News Tracking Legislation

Rosenberger To Resign Speaker's Office After FBI Probe Revealed

House Republicans Express Concerns On Gun Bill As Kasich Urges Support

Groups Urge Passage Of Pharmacy Benefit Manager Regulation Bill

New Package Of Telephone Regulations Advances, But Fails To Bridge Partisan Divide

Lawmakers Add \$10 Million To School Safety Bill; Measure Set For Wednesday Floor Vote

House Panel Reports Broadened Mentorship Bill

'Stand-Your-Ground' Bills Get Hearings In Both Chambers; New Measure Emerges

Senate Panel Installs Discount Cap, Reports ODNR Hunting, Fishing Licensing Bill

Physician Assistants Back Streamlining Practice Regulations

Opponents Say 'Sexting' Bill Is Unnecessary

Lawmaker Pushes For New Report-Card System

Opposition To Small Cell Wireless Bill Softens Following Senate Changes

Advocates: SNAP Photo ID Law Would Hinder Food Access, Have Little Effect On Fraud

Proponents Tout Benefits Of Bill Designed To Increase Judicial Discretion

Trump Nominates Two Ohioans For Federal Judgeships

Capitol Scene: Miller named LWVO Director

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Event Planner

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Senate Committee Hearings

Energy & Natural Resources

Public Utilities

Judiciary

Senate

CALENDARS

Day Planner




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Senate Activity for Tuesday, April 10, 2018

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Energy & Natural Resources

HB OIL GAS WELLS (Thompson, A.) To modify the law governing idle and orphaned oil and gas wells. **225** (SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB SPORTING LICENSURE (Uecker, J., O'Brien, S.) To make changes to the laws governing hunting and **257** fishing. (REPORTED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the committee's website under April 10.

Public Utilities

HB WATER SEWER ACQUISITIONS (Ginter, T., Rogers, J.) To govern acquisitions of municipal water-**422**works and sewage disposal system companies by certain larger nonmunicipal water-works or sewage disposal system companies. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsors told the committee their plan presents an "out of the box" approach to address the lack of funding for municipal water infrastructure investment.

"Currently, the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that Ohio will require more than \$12 billion to be invested in water system and more than \$14 billion in wastewater system infrastructure over the next 20 years and most communities struggle to fund this investment," Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) said.

In response, he and Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) are putting forth their legislation to encourage large private sector utilities to support infrastructure replacements and improvements.

The legislation in part is meant to more accurately determine property values for municipal water-works and sewage disposal systems, which sponsors said has up until this point served as a "roadblock" for such partnerships.

"Together, we see this approach as a means of providing heightened operational and financial expertise with access to capital resources while ensuring more stringent regulatory compliance," Rep. Rogers said. "The long term intent is to provide a more sustainable service with reliable plant operations, while protecting our water supplies for consumers."

Similar proposals have passed in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Illinois and several other states, the sponsors said.

HB WIRELESS SERVICES (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the **478** placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way. (SUBSTITUTE (See separate story); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

Governor's Appointments: The committee recommended full Senate approval of the appointment of Beverlyln Johns to the Consumers' Counsel Governing Board.

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the committee's website under April 10.

Judiciary

HB PARENTAL RIGHTS (Gonzales, A., Rezabek, J.) To generally prohibit a person's blindness from being used to deny or limit custody, parenting time, visitation, adoption, or service as a guardian or foster caregiver, regarding a minor. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) said in sponsor testimony the bill is designed to combat preconceived notions and biases surrounding blind parents.

"Because of these biases and attitudes, children of blind parents are removed from their parent's care unnecessarily or are restricted from enjoying meaningful time with their parents," she said.

"The need for this legislation was brought to our attention by the fourteen other states that have passed bills with similar content. It is necessary that the Legislature adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act and respect the due process and equal protection of blind parents and prospective blind parents in child welfare, foster care, family law, and adoption."

HB CHILD SUPPORT (Gavarone, T.) To make changes to the laws governing child support. 366 (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The measure will "provide critical and necessary updates" to child support guidelines, Rep. Theresa Gavarone, (R-Bowling Green) said in sponsor testimony.

"Many of the changes directly address issues that have been historically problematic in the way we set child support orders in Ohio," she said. "These revisions strike a delicate balance between the interests of multiple stakeholders, and the components are all meant to work together to achieve the result of child support orders based on the ability to pay, with the ultimate goal of consistent, reliable payments of child support to families."

The measure updates economic tables, includes a parenting time adjustment, modernizes health insurance and cash medical guidelines and creates a childcare credit cap.

HB AGGRAVATED MURDER (Greenspan, D.) To provide that purposely causing the death of a first responder or military member is aggravated murder and to require an offender to serve the prison term imposed for felonious assault on a peace officer, investigator, first responder, or military member consecutively to the prison term imposed for any related offense. (CONTINUED; 4th Hearing-All testimony)

Mike Weinman, director of government affairs at the Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio, said retired police officers deserve the same protections as active officers.

"One cannot deny that threats against officers occur," he said. "And we all know of someone, directly or indirectly, who can be all consumed with rage and hatred, looking to even some imaginary score."

Pat Lovejoy, vice president of the North Ohio Fire Fighters, said in recent years firefighters have been purposefully targeted when responding to fires.

"As those who protect the public, we are simply asking to receive the same protections that law enforcement personnel receive," he said.

Bill Houk, president of the Ohio Association of Fire Chiefs, echoed those sentiments.

"The inclusion of firefighters, EMTs, and members of the military is a needed change as law enforcement officers are not the only people that put themselves in harm's way on a daily basis, nor are they the only people targeted," he said.

U.S. Marshal Pete Elliot likened the measure to hate crime laws.

"Hate crime laws are used to protect many groups in our society and attacks against law enforcement officers and first responders would certainly fall under the definition of a hate crime: A prejudice-motivated crime which occurs when a perpetrator targets a victim because of his or her membership in a certain social group or race," he said.

HBSEX OFFENSES (Hughes, J.) To increase the penalty for sexual imposition when the offender previously **96** has been convicted or pleaded guilty three or more times of any of several specified sex offenses and to enhance the penalty for disorderly conduct involving voluntary intoxication when the offender has previously been convicted of the offense three or more times. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) said in sponsor testimony that the measure is identical to a Senate bill from the previous General Assembly.

"This legislation aims at addressing an issue that is happening with concerning frequency. According to prosecutors and law enforcement from across our state, Ohio citizens are being touched or groped against their will by offenders who repeat their egregious behavior over and over," he said. "In fact, there was a recent incident in Franklin County in which a serial offender who has a repeat pattern of targeting women in public places such as on COTA buses and would grope them."

Under the proposal, a third conviction for sexual imposition would allow for a jail sentence of up to one year.

SB INMATE SEARCHES (Eklund, J.) To authorize a corrections officer to cause a body cavity search to be **138**conducted, to establish separate rules and restrictions for conducting strip searches, and to limit the right of any person to commence a civil action for a violation of the law governing body cavity searches and strip searches to violations related to body cavity searches. (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony); 4th Hearing-Possible amendments)

A substitute bill offered by sponsoring Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) was accepted.

Among the changes, it would make a strip search at a local detention facility discretionary, he said. Those in the general population of a county jail would still be subjected to mandatory strip searches.

SB QUALIFIED IMMUNITY (Lehner, P.) To expand the circumstances in which qualified immunity from **177**civil liability applies with respect to volunteer health care services provided to indigent and uninsured persons. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Lori Kershner of the Opportunity Solutions Project said the bill could result in \$60 million in free health care to poor Ohioans.

"Although the number of uninsured Ohio has decreased in recent years, nearly 800,000 remain uninsured. Many more, even those with insurance, live in medically underserved communities or struggle to receive the care they need because of administrative red tape," she said in written testimony.

A similar program in Florida has resulted in 2.3 million free medical visits worth \$1.3 billion, Ms. Kershner said.

"It's time for Ohio to follow suit and support and incentivize health care professionals who want to serve low-income Ohioans, while providing safeguards for patients against neglect and misconduct," she wrote. "This common-sense policy will have a significant positive impact and will unleash the powers of Volunteer Care in our state."

SB FIREARM LAWS (Uecker, J., Hottinger, J.) To assign to the prosecution the burden of disproving a self-**180**defense or related claim, to expand the locations at which a person has no duty to retreat before using force under both civil and criminal law, and to modify the Concealed Handgun Licensing Law regarding a

licensee's duty to keep the licensee's hands in plain sight, the penalties for illegally carrying a concealed firearm or improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle, and the posting of warning signs regarding the possession of weapons on specified premises. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 4th Hearing-All testimony)**

SB WEAPON POSSESSION (Terhar, L.) To allow a law enforcement officer or investigator, whether on or off **208**duty, to carry a weapon on certain premises open to the public. **(REPORTED-AMENDED); 4th Hearing-**
 All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Before hearing testimony, several amendments offered by Chairman Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) were accepted. Among other things they would allow law enforcement officers to still carry a weapon if they are consuming alcohol as part of their duties.

Sen. Bacon said the amendment is designed to protect those that are undercover.

Other amendments would require an off-duty officer to also have identification while carrying a firearm, and allow a department to bar officers from carrying their service weapons while off duty.

Theodore Owens, vice president of investigations for the Ohio Association of Security & Investigation Services said in written testimony that "soft targets are now becoming a focus to those active aggressors, domestic and international terrorists."

"Having Ohio's law enforcement community armed and able to thwart those such attacks on-duty or off-duty is a step in the right direction where ever they may be. However, some retail establishments, private property businesses, and other entities open to the public still falsely believe that they are impervious to the threats of today's society," he wrote.

"They still believe in the notion of placing a plastic sign up prohibiting firearms or other dangerous weapons on their window will protect them from any harm. Simply put ladies and gentlemen, it won't."

SB OFFENDER DATABASE (Gardner, R.) To provide for a violent offender database, require violent **231**offenders to enroll in the database, and name those provisions of the act "Sierah's Law;" to modify the membership and duties of the Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and eliminate its repeal; to require halfway houses to use the single validated risk assessment tool for adult offenders that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has developed; and to provide that the notice of release from prison of specified serious offense offenders that is given to sheriffs is to be the same as that provided to prosecuting attorneys and eliminate the notice to sheriffs regarding pardons, commutations, paroles, and transitional control transfers of offenders. **(REPORTED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

Gary Daniels, chief lobbyist at the ACLU of Ohio, raised several concerns with the bill, including whether the database would be available to the public.

"The ACLU of Ohio is against SB231 whether the database is private or publicly accessible," he said. "But, if this bill is amended to explicitly make this database searchable by the public, numerous other problems arise regarding the effect of such registries on the successful reintegration into society for those who paid their debt to society and left prison."

Mr. Daniels also said he envisions the registry expanding if made law.

"These lists start more modestly, then expand in scope and size," he said. "DNA databases are an excellent example. They were once sold to legislatures and the public as only for the most serious felony convictions. Then all felony convictions. Then, like in Ohio, all felony arrests. Now we see proposals to expand it to certain misdemeanor convictions."

Sponsoring Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) clarified that the database could only be viewed by the public inside the confines of a sheriff's department.

Niki Clum, of the Office of the Ohio Public Defender, said in written testimony the information available in the database does not include context.

"There will be no explanation that the individual on the list may have only been 18-years-old when they committed the offense and that they spent significant time in prison working hard to improve and educate themselves," she wrote.

"Regardless of the circumstances surrounding an individual's admission to the database, being on the list will cause the public to assume those people should be feared and loathed. These types of misconceptions can cause loss of employment and housing opportunities, which continue to punish not only the offender, but also their family."

Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) said he is concerned that the bill could be used to find information about an alleged perpetrator and commit an act of retaliation.

"If you have a name you can find out where that person lives," Sen. Gardner responded. "That's not a challenge."

SB WEAPON MAKING (LaRose, F.) To eliminate the prohibition against manufacturing, possessing for sale, **242** selling, or furnishing certain weapons other than firearms or dangerous ordnance. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsoring Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) said under current law it is legal to own a spring-loaded knife but not to manufacture one.

"This archaic law is preventing Ohio businesses from reaching their full potential," he said.

He said several other states have repealed similar laws.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) asked Sen. LaRose about his repeated use of the phrase "archaic" to describe the current law.

He said in Colorado he traced a similar law back to the time in which the musical West Side Story was popular and lawmakers reacted due to their thinking that knives were "the weapons of choice for various street gangs."

Subscriber's Note: Full testimonies are available on the [committee website](#) under April 10.

Finance


HB UNCLAIMED FUNDS (Reineke, B.) To exempt certain open-loop prepaid cards, closed-loop prepaid **353** cards, and rewards cards from the Unclaimed Funds Law. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)


Eric Gillett, chairman and CEO of Sutton Bank in Attica, urged the panel to support the bill, saying the bank engages is involved in closed-loop prepaid card systems. He said, however, the institution is unable to offer a competitive open-loop prepaid card system due to Ohio law that requires unused funds to be transferred to Unclaimed funds after five years of continuous inactivity.

Given the status of the law, aggregators and program managers choose not to partner with Ohio financial institutions. "They choose instead to deliver the economic benefits of their product to institutions subject to the laws of a state like South Dakota that does not require institutions to remit unused open-loop gift card funds to the state," he said. "This fact continues to be shared with us when we attempt to attract open-loop gift card programs."

He said passage would give Ohio institutions the ability to create jobs in that open loop card field. Beyond that, he said the bill wouldn't impact customers or have any notable impact on the unclaimed funds balance.


Dustin Holfinger of the Ohio Bankers League also urged support for the bill. He said the bill would make Ohio financial institutions more competitive with entities in other states that don't have the requirement for open-loop cards to revert to unclaimed funds after a set amount of time.

SB MILITARY TRANSFERS (LaRose, F., Williams, S.) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the **116** person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. (**REPORTED**  **(No testimony)**; 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB VOTING EQUIPMENT (LaRose, F.) To make supplemental operating appropriations for the FY 2018-FY **135** 2019 biennium and supplemental capital appropriations for the FY 2017-FY 2018 biennium to implement a  voting machine and equipment acquisition program. (**REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) amended the bill to require equal bipartisan representation on the Voting Machine Advisory Committee. The amendment also ensures representation from people representing counties of different population levels.

Chair Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) won support for an amendment to clarify that funds in the bill intended to reimburse counties for prior recent voting machine purposes would be released after receiving approval of the Controlling Board.

SB STUDENT REMOVAL (Lehner, P., Manning, G.) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for **246** emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre-  kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. (**CONTINUED**; 4th Hearing-All testimony)

Scott DiMauro, vice president of the Ohio Education Association, testified in support, saying the bill would limit out-of-school suspensions and expulsions for students in pre-K through third grade. The measure, he said, is in line with an OEA legislative policy.

He said nearly half of suspensions involving young students involved disruptive and disobedient behavior, adding that exclusionary discipline tends to be ineffective and doesn't improve student behavior.


"It also is shown to attribute to a series of adverse consequences later in life, including academic failure, incarceration, and other social and academic issues," he said.

Mr. DiMauro added that the bill includes \$2 million to help schools implement the policy.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) questioned why school districts themselves - rather than lawmakers in Columbus - can't adopt their own policies on the issue.

Mr. DiMauro said evidence shows that the suspensions are a systemic problem, and added that the state has a responsibility to make sure students receive a high quality education.

Susan Lewis Kaylor of the St. Vincent Family Center also backed the bill, which she said would get students positive intervention and support. She said young students who deal with adverse situations at home can be disruptive in school, and added that excluding them from school only returns them to difficult situations where they might not get guidance they need.

SB SPORTS EVENTS (Kunze, S., Eklund, J.) To remove limitations on the amount of sports events grants that **271** may be awarded in a fiscal year or for a specific grant, and to fund the grant program by diverting state sales 

tax receipts to a custodial fund administered by the Director of Development Services. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) said the bill would drop the limits on the amount of funds that could be awarded for sports events grants. He said it is his goal to establish a permanent grant fund to help the state attract major sporting events.

"Only counties, cities or local organizing committees - which must be a non-profit - are eligible to receive any portion of the grant funds," he said. "No professional sports team, organization or leagues are eligible to receive any funding from the program. The fund would allow local organizing committees to bid for major events with the knowledge that money will be there to cover expenses."

The sponsor said the competition to host major sporting events is fierce, adding that 34 states have some incentive system to draw sporting events. The bill, he said, is needed to help the state continue to bid on key events that have a significant economic benefit for Ohio.

Governor's Appointments: The panel also recommended confirmation of the governor's appointments of Megan Cremeans and Zachary Haines, Miami University Board of Trustees; Iris Martinez Juergens, Central State University Board of Trustees and Kathy Maguschak, Eastern Gateway Community College Board of Trustees.

Subscribers note: Full testimony is available on the [committee's website](#) under April 10.

Health, Human Services & Medicaid

HB MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain advanced practice **111** registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination. **(CONTINUED-AMENDED; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)**

The committee accepted a pair of amendments offered by Chairman Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville).

The first amendment, brought by the Board of Nursing and the Legislative Service Commission, makes several technical changes to the bill, Sen. Burke said.

The second amendment changes the time period for a dialysis technician to hold an internship from 12 months to six months before they can obtain a temporary license, he said.

HB SNAP (Henne, M., McColley, R.) Regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition **119** Assistance program and the Medicaid program. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB EBT CARDS (Schaffer, T.) To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the **50** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

SB NURSING HOME OUTBREAKS (Yuko, K.) Regarding outbreaks of Clostridium difficile in nursing **102** homes. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Kathryn Brod, president and CEO of LeadingAge Ohio, said in written testimony that while outbreaks of clostridium difficile, or c-diff, warrant attention from state agencies, that oversight is already codified. Nursing homes are required to report outbreaks to the Department of Health.

"The existing requirement is more stringent than the 48-hour timeframe proposed in SB102," she wrote. "Furthermore, since November 2017, nursing homes have been required to have an Infection Prevention and Control Plan that is reviewed annually based on the facility assessment, as part of Phase Two of the implementation of Medicare's Requirements of Participation. Infection Control is now a mandatory activity for

nursing homes, and their infection control plans are surveyed on an annual basis by the Ohio Department of Health."

Ms. Brod said her groups members were concerned the requirements would be duplicative, adding an administrative burden without additional benefit.

SB OUTDOOR DINING (Coley, B.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to take the dog **182** in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation. (CONTINUED-
■ SUBSTITUTE; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

The committee accepted a substitute bill that made a number of changes, including clarifying that public health officials can restrict dogs on patios in the case of a public health outbreak, sponsor Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) said.

The substitute version also makes clear that dogs must use an outside entrance to the patio or dining area, and cannot go through the restaurant, Sen. Coley said. Dogs would have to be in their owner's control at all times.

Dr. Liesa Stone, president of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, said the emergency authority for public health entities will keep people safe in the event of an outbreak.

Most new or emerging infectious diseases are spread from animals to humans, and while the likelihood of diseases originating on a restaurant patio is low, safeguards should be in place, she said. The Department of Health and Department of Agriculture should have the ability to temporarily restrict the presence of dogs on patios during an incident.

"This simple yet important modification gives those empowered to protect public health the tool they need to address a potential disease outbreak," she said. "Without it, human and animal health would be unjustly vulnerable to the myriad of known and yet to emerge disease risks."

Brandon Ogden, president of Small Business Consultants of Ohio, said in written testimony that legislation could boost revenue for small businesses, which are more likely to allow consumers to allow dogs in outside dining areas.

"Over the past several years, dogs have become friendly companions to millions of Ohioans, and essentially members of their families," he wrote. "Thus, it seems only suiting that consumers should be allowed to choose where they dine based on their ability to bring their dog. Further, the current version of SB182 includes various food safety provisions that will ensure all restaurant patrons have safe and enjoyable dining experiences."

SB PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS (Hackett, B.) To revise the law regulating physician assistant practice. **259** (CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SCRDISABILITIES ACT (Yuko, K.) To urge Congress to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act and **18** adopt an international symbol of access that includes a dynamic character leaning forward with a sense of movement. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Katherine Foley, executive director of Services for Independent Living Inc., said in written testimony that changing the current international symbol of accessibility to a more dynamic design would help address attitudinal barriers faced by people with disabilities.

"For so long, this population has been stigmatized as one of needing help to function," she wrote. "Yes, some do, but many do not. The societal attitude of 'can't do' rather than 'can do' is one of the greatest barriers faced by the disability community. It is often assumed by the community, professionals, family and eventually the person themselves, that the individual is helpless and unable to contribute to the community."

Governor's Appointments: The committee recommended full Senate approval of the governor's appointments of Kathleen Borges and Kenneth Drude to the State Board of Psychology; Carl Brun to the Counselor, Social

Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board; Nancy Fellows to the Board of Nursing and Matthew Paylo, Ph.D, Counselor to the Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.


The committee also recommended approval of the director of health's appointments of James Adams, Chad Brown, Tonia Burford, Terri Gerhardt, Gina Nicholson Kramer and Jennifer Reed to the Sanitarian Advisory Board.

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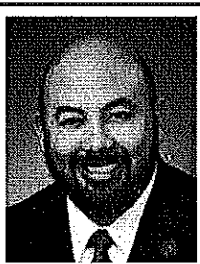
Volume #87, Report #69 -- Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Rosenberger To Resign Speaker's Office After FBI Probe Revealed

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger announced Tuesday he will resign his office and leave the legislature amid FBI questions into his travel and spending habits.

His departure, scheduled for May 1, was announced shortly after the House Republican Caucus met following a lengthy day of committee meetings.

"As I have said previously, I am aware of a federal inquiry being conducted regarding things I may have been involved in. First and foremost, I believe that all of my actions as Speaker have been both ethical and lawful," Mr. Rosenberger said in a statement.



Speaker
Rosenberger

"However, I understand that the nature of this inquiry has the potential to be very demanding and intensive, and could take months or even years to resolve. Meanwhile, there are many important issues facing our state that deserve careful consideration and review, and Ohioans deserve elected leaders who are able to devote their full and undivided attention to these matters. I believe the institution of the Ohio House of Representatives is far more important than one person."

"Therefore, it is after much thought and contemplation that I have decided to resign as both Speaker of the Ohio House and state representative of the 91st District, effective May 1st. At that time, Speaker Pro Tempore Kirk Schuring will assume the responsibilities of the office of Speaker until a new Speaker is elected by the Ohio House," he said.

The FBI inquiry was first revealed publicly over the weekend when the Clarksville Republican told the *Dayton Daily News* he had hired a criminal defense attorney because the FBI had been asking questions about him. However, he also told the paper he had not been told he was under direct investigation.

His office, however, has publicly declined to comment further until the announcement was released Tuesday night. Mr. Rosenberger could preside over the House session on Wednesday afternoon.

The issues reportedly piquing the FBI's interest include Mr. Rosenberger's overseas travel, his use of campaign funds and relationships with donors and lobbyists. He came under fire last year when it was revealed that he rented a luxury downtown Columbus condo owned by GOP contributor Ginni Ragan.

Last week, Attorney General Mike DeWine discussed the issue with the speaker and suggested he resign if allegations of improprieties were true.

Governor John Kasich said Mr. Rosenberger is a friend and has been a key partner in leading the state. "I am sorry to hear this news but respect him for making a decision that he believes is right for our state and the people and institutions for which he cares deeply," the governor said in a statement. "I wish him well in the days ahead."

The 102nd Speaker of the House, Mr. Rosenberger rose to take the gavel at the age of 33 after maneuvering his way past Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) and a coalition of conservative members in 2014. (See Gongwer Ohio

Report, November 12, 2014)

Prior to his legislative career, the Air Force veteran served in President George W. Bush's administration as special assistant to U.S. Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne.

Mr. Rosenberger joined the House in 2011 and faces term limits this year. He briefly flirted with a run for the GOP nomination for state auditor against Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) before changing his mind. Suggestions that he might instead run for county commissioner also did not pan out.

"Serving the people of the 91st House District has been the greatest honor of my life, and I am truly sorry that I will not be able to fulfill the remainder of my term," Mr. Rosenberger said. "I take this step with full confidence in my ultimate vindication, but also believe this decision is what is best for my family, my constituents, the residents of the state and the Ohio House of Representatives. I have every belief that the House will continue to lead on the most important issues facing our great state and that Ohio's future remains bright."

Rep. Schuring (R-Canton) said in a statement released with the speaker's comments, "It has been an honor and privilege for me to serve with Cliff Rosenberger over the past seven years in the Ohio House. Particularly in the past three years, I believe we have worked well together to take the lead on a variety of policy issues that are critical for our state's success. That is what makes tonight's announcement so emotional."

"Though it was very difficult, I know the Speaker made the decision he felt was best for the Ohio House of Representatives. Therefore, effective May 1st, I will humbly accept the responsibilities of the office of the Speaker until the next Speaker is elected by the House," he said.

"Moving forward, my goal will be to facilitate the operations of this institution as smoothly and efficiently as possible. I will continue to work closely with our members on the legislation that is important to them and the people of Ohio."

The timing of the vote to determine who will replace Mr. Schuring as speaker could play a key role in determining future leadership of the House. Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford) have been pursuing the office, and one of them - or any other member of the GOP caucus - could be elected to the post yet this year.

"I believe the speaker made the right decision for the betterment of the institution and the people of Ohio and I'm sure it was a very difficult decision," Mr. Smith said.

A vote on replacing Mr. Schuring is expected after the May primary.

The House Republican Caucus will also select a successor for Mr. Rosenberger. Beth Ellis of Sabina, who is aligned with Mr. Rosenberger, and Shane Wilkin of Hillsboro have both filed as Republicans in the 91st District. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 9, 2018)

House Republicans Express Concerns On Gun Bill As Kasich Urges Support

Gov. John Kasich and legislative sponsors of firearm law revisions stressed Tuesday the proposals are not aimed at confiscating guns from law abiding owners.

But some aren't buying that based on questions from Republicans on the House State & Local Government Committee and scoffs from gun owners in the audience during the House bill's first hearing.

The proposal (HB 585) would in part create a process for the issuance of gun violence protection orders, ban the purchasing of firearms for third parties, expand data-sharing between law enforcement databases, and mirror federal law in several firearm-related areas. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 5, 2018)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) and Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) introduced their own legislation to that effect earlier this week (SB 288). Both were modeled after recommendations issued in March by a working group convened by Gov. Kasich. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 1, 2018)

"HB585 contains sensible changes that can make people safer, from themselves and others," Rep. Henne told the House panel (Testimony). "It is not the gun. It is the person. HB585 will help make it harder for people who should not possess a gun to get a gun. It does not take away the guns of the responsible gun owners."

Throughout the hearing, Republicans questioned Rep. Henne on how the legislation would work in practice. The committee chair said the bill remains a work in progress.

"After this meeting we'll have some conversations with leadership and see what the plans are," Chairwoman Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) said in an interview. "But several members brought up issues today that they feel should be addressed in the bill or not addressed. So we just need to talk to members of the committee to see what their feelings are."

Rep. Bill Dean (R-Xenia) likened the proposal to a "sledge hammer and taking everyone's gun rights away."

"I totally reject 'taking everybody's guns away,'" Rep. Henne replied. "That is a mischaracterization."

Much of the concern centered on the extreme risk protection order language. Under the legislation, a person could petition the court for the order but must demonstrate facts showing a significant risk and the number and locations of deadly weapons along with establishing "clear and convincing evidence" that a threat exists.

Alternately, if "significant and imminent" harm is expected, an ex parte order can be sought in which law enforcement will remove the firearms and the owner will receive a hearing to respond within 72 hours. If the petition is tossed out, the firearms are to be "immediately" returned, according to the proposal.

Minutes before the committee started, sponsors of the House and Senate bills joined Gov. Kasich for a private Statehouse meeting with Fred Guttenberg, whose 14-year-old daughter, Jamie, was one of 17 people killed during a Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

"If somebody is emotionally unstable and poses a risk to themselves or others it only stands to reason that through an approach to a court that person would lose their guns," Gov. Kasich said. "That is not a violation of anybody's Second Amendment and not doing it would be a violation of people having clear thinking."

But Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) questioned how that provision doesn't infringe on Second Amendment rights. He imagined a scenario in which a SWAT team kicks down the door, attempts to locate the weapons, and cuts the door off a gun safe. Who, he asked, would pay for that damage?

In those ex parte cases, Rep. Henne said, the firearm owners would wait a maximum of 72 hours for a hearing after which if the judge tosses out the petition the weapons would be returned "immediately." The sponsor did, however, express a willingness to revise the term immediately to be more specific and create language ensuring local department are responsible for damages.

Several lawmakers questioned language vising the definition of those who may not possess firearms to include those who have been convicted of a felony or domestic violence, violated a protective order or were dishonorable discharged from the military.

Rep. Henne expressed a willingness to work with colleagues to refine the bill. He said that recent discussions already revealed to him an oversight that could prohibit non-violent felons from owning weapons, which was not his original intent.

Committee members also questioned why it was necessary for other portions of the legislation that would mirror Ohio law to federal laws including the banning of armor piercing bullets. Several members asked why Ohio officers couldn't enforce those federal laws now.

"To enforce those federal laws they would have to bring in a federal agent," Rep. Henne told Rep. Jim Hoops (R-Napoleon).

Gun advocates attended the committee meeting to show their disapproval - among them a gentleman wearing a shirt featuring a vulgarity regarding gun-free zones. Chairwoman Anielski requested he cover it up after several committee members took offense.

Mr. Guttenberg, speaking to reporters after his meeting with the governor, applauded Gov. Kasich and sponsors for their work on the issue thus far.

"There are bad people in the world who want to do bad things and what the governor and everyone here is trying to do is to make it harder for those people to have access to weapons of war that could be truly devastating," Mr. Guttenberg said.

Sen. Eklund described what he witnessed after the 2012 shooting at Chardon High School that ultimately killed three students and injured others. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, February 27, 2012](#))

"None of you, I dare say, can imagine," Sen. Eklund said of the tragedy. "I saw what it did to that community and I'm here to tell you that reverberation continues in the hearts and minds of the people in my home town."

Sen. Kunze, a former school secretary, said lawmakers also have a responsibility to keep teachers and staff safe. "The broader conversation is how do we keep our people safe?" she said.

Asked if he believes enough Republican support exists to pass the legislation, Gov. Kasich said he's "sick and tired" of gun laws being a partisan issue.

"I'm interested in people who are objective and can be rationale as they make decisions about this or any other issue," Gov. Kasich said. "Do I think there are enough people here to pass something? I do. And the legislative schedule means nothing to me. It can always come back. ... So hopefully this can move expeditiously. If it doesn't, if it takes time, fine."

Groups Urge Passage Of Pharmacy Benefit Manager Regulation Bill

Pharmacist groups and patients urged a House panel Tuesday to pass legislation placing limits on clawback provisions and "gag orders" by pharmacy benefit managers.

The proposal ([HB 479](#)) would put in law some elements of new regulations imposed on PBMs last week by the Department of Insurance. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, April 4, 2018](#))

Groups told the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee that placing limits on certain contract provisions in code, rather than relying on administrative regulations, would ensure the behavior is kept in check.

Antonio Ciaccia, director of government and public affairs for the Ohio Pharmacists Association, said the legislation would address the issue of clawbacks by pharmacy benefit managers that can lead to patients paying more than the cash price of a drug and pharmacists losing money on some transactions.

"While this issue is first and foremost a consumer transparency issue, we also have concerns with some of the possible legal ramifications of these practices," he said. "There are now more than a dozen lawsuits nationally that are aimed at these practices, and unfortunately, we have now seen pharmacies dragged into those lawsuits for their involvement. This is the unfortunate reality of largely non-negotiable contracts that pharmacies must enter into with PBMs in order to get access to their patients."

Mr. Ciaccia praised new regulations by the Department of Insurance to prohibit so-called "gag orders" on pharmacies and co-pays above the retail price of the drug but said lawmakers should make those changes permanent.

"PBM co-pay clawbacks are confusing at best, and deceptive at worst," he said. "Pharmacists should not be silent pawns in drug pricing shell games and should be free to discuss all options for the patient at the pharmacy counter - including whether or not there are ways to save money on their needed medications."

Bob Fowler, a North Ridgeville resident and cancer patient, said such business practices by pharmacy benefit managers have driven up the cost of his medications.

"This bill would protect my right to have an honest, open conversation with my pharmacist. It would protect cancer patients like myself from secretive cost sharing plans," he said. "And it will ensure that pharmacies are able to stock my medications without fear of punishment from nationwide PBMs."

Heather Free, director of pharmacy services at Equitas Health, said the legislation would protect consumers from harmful practices that would require patients to pay more than they should for drugs.

"These protections are incredibly important, and I applaud ODI's leadership on this matter," she said. "However, passing House Bill 479 is still necessary in order to ensure that PBMs cannot engage in the harmful 'clawback' practice."

John Covello, director of government relations for the Independent Pharmacy Cooperative, a national trade group representing independent pharmacy owners, said in written testimony that the state needs to place regulations on pharmacy benefit managers in law, rather than relying on agency regulations.

"IPC applauds Ohio's regulatory steps to put an end to these PBM practices that add to prescription costs and interfere with the pharmacy's ability to communicate fully with their patients about all aspects of their prescriptions, but legislation is the only permanent patient protection the Ohio Legislature can take to ensure patients not only have a 'right to know' about the real costs of prescriptions, but to allow pharmacies the legal right to best counsel their patients," he said.

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the [committee's website](#) under April 10.

New Package Of Telephone Regulations Advances, But Fails To Bridge Partisan Divide

A regulatory update sought by the telecom industry cleared a House committee Tuesday along party lines, with detractors saying the new version of the legislation doesn't go far enough to protect vulnerable consumers.

Sponsored by [Rep. Brian Hill](#) (R-Zanesville), the bill ([HB 402](#)) includes several revisions to state oversight of telephone lines, including changes to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's rate setting processes and authority.

Industry supporters, including the Ohio Telecom Association, argue that the updates will spur more investments and boost competitiveness among telephone service providers. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, January 23, 2018](#))

Opponents, as they have in prior hearings on the bill, say the easing of regulations will lead to price hikes and potentially the loss of service - especially in rural parts of the state. Testimony delivered to the committee before the vote Tuesday continued along those lines despite the adoption of a [substitute version](#) that industry representatives called a result of give-and-take over several months of interested party meetings. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, February 20, 2018](#))

Among other changes, the new version ([Comparison Document](#)):

- Limits monthly basic local exchange service rate increases by incumbent local exchange carriers to \$2 instead of 20%.
- Provides for full BLES pricing flexibility after four years with caveats, including demonstrating to the PUCO that the exchange rate is competitive and the ILEC has experienced a 50% line loss in the area since 2002.

- Mandates that BLES rate decreases not go below an ILEC's incremental cost.
- Allows the PUCO to suspend, for good cause shown, the automatic approval of an application of an ILEC to demonstrate that an exchange area is competitive.
- Requires the PUCO to approve or deny the application within 90 days after a suspension.
- Retains BLES service standards in current law.
- Changes state policy to ensuring the adequacy and reliability of BLES, where available, and the adequacy and reliability of voice service.
- Requires the PUCO to produce and docket a report on industry impacts no later than three years after the effective date of the bill.

Mary Ellen Nose, a paralegal with the Southeastern Ohio Legal Services' Athens Area Office, testified against the measure.

"My concern continues to be for those who are elderly, are low-income or on fixed incomes, as well as for rural Ohioans who live in areas where communications technology available elsewhere has not been made widely available," she told the House Public Utilities Committee. "The bill contains language that does not protect Ohioans in these technological dead zones."

"Until all Ohioans have other adequate, reliable service at a price comparable to what they now pay for basic telephone services, current protections for basic telephone service should be retained," she added.

Written opponent testimony was also submitted by a coalition including the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Ohio Poverty Law Center, Pro Seniors Inc and HARCATUS Tri-County CAO.

Following Ms. Nose's testimony, the committee broke for private caucus meetings before returning and reporting the substitute version on a 12-7 vote.

Rep. Mike Ashford (D-Toledo), the ranking minority party member of the committee, said in an interview after the hearing that his caucus was united against the bill because, despite the changes in the substitute, it would still lead to rate increases and thwart the role of the PUCO as a neutral regulatory body.

"It's an attack on our seniors and low-income people," he said. "It's just a bad bill all around."

OTA President Charles Moses said later the sub bill was the product of extensive discussions and compromise.

"We appreciate the House Public Utilities Committee passing HB402 today," he said. "We will continue to work with all the interested parties as this bill moves through the legislative process."

"Our goal continues to be to modernize the code and incent greater investment in Ohio's telecommunications networks," he added. "This is a reasonable compromise that is a result of many months of negotiations with all of those involved."

Lawmakers Add \$10 Million To School Safety Bill; Measure Set For Wednesday Floor Vote

A bipartisan measure initially aimed at establishing training requirements for school resource officers moved forward Tuesday with \$10 million in funding for school-safety grants.

The bill (HB 315), which received unanimous approval from the Education and Career Readiness Committee last month, initially set qualifications for police officers who work in schools and required them to complete 40 hours of specialized training.

Sponsors Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls) and John Patterson (D-Jefferson) spoke in favor of an amendment to add \$10 million in funding for school-safety grants to the legislation.

"As excited as I was to move forward with our legislation as we originally passed it, I'm even more optimistic about the positive impact the amendment you have in front of you today will make on our schools across the state," Ms. LaTourette said.

Ms. LaTourette said the grant funding could be used to pay for any training related to school safety, including certification-training for school resource officers.

Mr. Patterson echoed his colleague's comments.

"It would have been hollow to have passed the original bill without any funding attached to it," he said. "Although \$10 million does not seem like much on a statewide basis, and surely we can do more in the next biennium, it is, nevertheless, a start."

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) proposed an amendment to increase the funding for the grant program to \$50 million, but it was tabled by a vote of 21-8.

"The request for the additional \$40 million is because the need is so great," she said. "There are so many local governments and school districts (that) don't have the capacity to do the bare minimum."

Ms. LaTourette said she and Mr. Patterson arrived at the \$10 million figure following discussions with members of the Senate.

"It's a number that I know is workable," she said. "It's a number that I know they will agree to."

The committee did accept an amendment offered proposed by Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire), which would require the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to study the "most cost-effective" ways to add security upgrades to existing school buildings. The study would be due to the governor and General Assembly by Feb. 1, 2019.

The House Finance Committee reported the measure by a vote of 27-0 after accepting the amendments regarding the \$10 million in grant funding and the study.

The measure was approved after the committee heard testimony from Frank Hall, a football coach who confronted a shooter who killed three people Feb. 27, 2012 at Chardon High School.

Mr. Hall, who later founded the Coach Hall Foundation to support school safety, spoke in favor of the measure.

"I can't change the past, but we can, through this legislation make sure it is more difficult for these types of events to happen," he said. "Putting a school resource officer who is a police officer who has special training is the most important step in securing our buildings and protecting our children."

Tim Armelli, a teacher at Chardon High School and president of the Coach Hall Foundation, and the building's school resource officer, Mike Shaw, also spoke as a proponent.

Erin Davies, executive director of the Juvenile Justice Coalition, said officials with her organization hope the grant program can be used by districts to give students "increased access to social workers and mental health professionals."

"Having a strong support staff would help to identify and deescalate situations early and hopefully reduce the need for any law enforcement intervention - SRO or otherwise," she said.

House Panel Reports Broadened Mentorship Bill

A measure backed by House leadership aimed at providing mentorship opportunities for at-risk youth emerged Tuesday from the House Finance Committee with a new statewide scope.

The OhioCorps pilot program ([HB 508](#)) would allow younger students whose families have struggled with opioid addiction to partner with college-age students and potentially receive scholarship funding. The older students would receive stipends for their participation.

Prior to advancing the measure, which was slated for a full House vote on Wednesday, the committee accepted a substitute version committee that [Rep. Scott Ryan](#) (R-Newark) said removes the geographical restriction from the program.

Mr. Ryan said the substitute bill compiles previous amendments to the legislation, which initially focused on southeastern Ohio before expanding to include northeastern Ohio (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, March 6, 2018](#)) and, finally, the entire state.

The substitute bill also increases the appropriation to support the OhioCorps program from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million and adds technical colleges to the list of institutions that can participate in the program, among other tweaks. ([Comparison Document](#))

[Rep. Brigid Kelly](#) (D-Cincinnati) and [Rep. Dan Ramos](#) (D-Lorain) cast the lone votes against the legislation, citing the mismatch between the funding amount and the effort's widening scope.

"I'm worried we're not going to be spending enough to actually create change for these children who are at such risk," Mr. Ramos said.

Ms. Kelly said she views the effort as a "good start to what could be a good program," but added she shares Rep. Ramos' concerns about its funding.

[Rep. Bill Reineke](#) (R-Tiffin), who cosponsored the bill with Mr. Ryan, said he viewed moving the legislation forward as a positive step even if some questions about the pilot program's future remain unanswered.

"There (are) a lot of times the private sector could take over if there's a successful public program that's underfunded," he said.

[Rep. Emilia Sykes](#) (D-Akron) voted in favor of the measure despite concerns about the size of the initial appropriation.

"Hopefully it will, as it moves through the legislative process, become a more-robust program because the kids deserve this," she said

'Stand-Your-Ground' Bills Get Hearings In Both Chambers; New Measure Emerges

Committees in each chamber on Tuesday took up similar controversial gun bills to shift the burden of proof in self-defense cases and expand instances in which there is no duty to retreat.

A substitute version of the House bill ([HB 228](#)) offered by [Rep. Derek Merrin](#) (R-Maumee) was accepted before the House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee adjourned without hearing testimony on the measure.

Among the changes, it limits the use of an affirmative self-defense and expands current law on unlawful transaction of a firearm, according to Rep. Merrin. ([Comp doc](#))

It was approved in a 5-3 party-line vote, with [Rep. Mike Ashford](#) (D-Toledo) objecting to the substitute version.

"We should have had more than three minutes to look at this bill," he said, calling it "totally unfair to how the process should work."

Chairman Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) defending the process, saying that the substitute version of the bill was adopted so that committee members will have time to review the new working version prior to the next committee hearing.

"This is to give you the time to do that," she said.

Meanwhile, the Senate version of the proposal (SB 180) was blasted in testimony provided by anti-gun violence groups, law enforcement and others.

Neil Moore of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America said the legislation will effectively allow people to carry concealed handguns in public without a permit or safety training.

"The current permitting system in Ohio contains safeguards of a criminal background check and a safety training course, which assures the public that people who conceal carry are well trained on how to handle a gun, can own one legally, and can carry handguns safely," he told members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "Ohioans trust this system."

Rosie Craig of the League of Women Voters of Ohio also raised concerns about that provision, saying it could lead to an increase in racially motivated violence.

"The lines become blurred when people exercising their First Amendment rights are threatened or intimidated by emboldened gun carriers whose perception of their Second Amendment rights allows them to express contemptuous views with a gun in hand," she said.

The panel also received written proponent testimony from Col. Paul Pride of the State Highway Patrol and representatives of the Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence and Progress NW Ohio.

Rep. Candice Keller (R-Middletown) on Tuesday also announced the introduction of another stand-your-ground measure (HB 590).

"It is so important that we as Ohioans stand strong against the criminal element and those who would wish to take away our God-given right to protect ourselves. This law, a 'no duty to retreat' law, promotes a defendant's right to use force without retreating in order to protect and defend themselves or others against threats or perceived threats," she said in a statement.

"Every day in this country, women and children are threatened by those who would wish to abuse or harm them. The weaker and smaller can be overtaken by violent individuals who have no respect for the law or court-ordered protection papers," she said. "Under current law, if harm is done to you and you defend yourself using a firearm, you become the guilty person until proven innocent. This bill will repair these holes in present laws."

Senate Panel Installs Discount Cap, Reports ODNR Hunting, Fishing Licensing Bill

Senators on Tuesday amended legislation to expand hunting and fishing license options to include a cap on available discounts, earning several more proponents for the plan as a result.

Members of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee then reported the measure from Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) and Sen. Sean O'Brien (D-Hubbard) after a number of opponent groups testified that they were switching to proponents in light of the change.

The legislation (SB 257) and a companion bill (HB 518) was unveiled by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in March and aims to expand licensure options including by offering for the first time multi-year and lifetime licenses and packages of various types of licenses.

The amendment from Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) caps at 5% the available discount for new multi-year licenses. Available discounts for lifetime licenses are not impacted. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 20, 2018)

"If we discount it too much you may end up losing money," Sen. Beagle said. "If you discount it a little you make more money by attracting more people to fishing and hunting."

The change is based on research compiled at ODNR's request by Southwick and Associates which determined a discount greater than 5% would result in a net revenue loss for the agency. The Division of Wildlife is largely self-funded through fee revenue.

Groups that were once opponents had flagged concerns, pointing to estimates showing the Division of Wildlife may face a \$100 million budget shortfall within the next decade.

ODNR Assistant Director Gary Obermiller said those are questions that will face future administrations and said the amended bill will help draw new revenue and retain sportsmen and women.

"Quite honestly, these are options that should have been made available many years ago," he said. "I know there has been a lot of debate on the numbers. The numbers are what they are. It's not a silver bullet that might make or break the Division of Wildlife. Those are decisions that need to be made down the road...but this is a good step for the sportsmen of Ohio."

He said the agency hopes to make those new options available this fall if the legislation makes it through the General Assembly this spring.

Among groups who once opposed the move and are now supportive are the Ohio Sportsmen's Alliance, Ducks Unlimited and the Ohio Conservation Federation. The Boating Association of Ohio also voiced support.

Former ODNR Chief Michael Budzik highlighted the division's expected shortfall, but said he is willing to support the amended bill. Still, he cautioned lawmakers that the "luster of discounts will quickly fade away when the DOW's financial situation continues to worsen."

Matt Misicka, president of the federation, also shared his group's newfound support. "Our membership applauds the customer service aspects of this legislation and we can certainly stand alongside our colleagues...in support of the amended bill."

House Hearing: Rob Sexton of the Sportsmen's Alliance said his group supports four of the bill's provisions and doesn't object to five other changes. He said, however, the group is opposed to the pricing levels involved with making multi-year hunting and fishing licenses available.

Also speaking on behalf of the Buckeye Firearms Association, Ducks Unlimited, League of Ohio Sportsmen, Ohio Conservation Federation, Ohio State Trappers Association and other groups, Mr. Sexton said discounting the price of the licenses above 5% creates a risk of overall revenue loss for the Division of Wildlife.

The witness noted that the group would become a proponent of the bill if the panel adds the 5% discount cap amendment that was adopted in a Senate committee earlier in the day.

"The constituents in the outdoor world are asking ODNR and the General Assembly to take a conservative path on this idea," he said. "If we get this wrong, there will be little appetite from your colleagues to want to raise the prices if this produces a revenue loss. Why not listen to the people who buy the licenses? Why not listen to the expert the state of Ohio retained? With a change to a 5% license, Ohio's sportsmen and women will celebrate this bill as a progressive step toward stimulating participation in the outdoor sports, which is something we all want."

Overall, he said sportsmen are worried about the financial future of the division of wildlife, in part because the fee structure was last revised in 2004. "They are living off of a fee structure that is 14 years old," he said, adding that revenues generated as a result of a gun and ammunition sales are also falling.

Further, he said the division could also be financially stretched as it begins to manage a newly proposed state park in southeast Ohio.

Responding to Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster), Mr. Sexton said sportsmen's groups are unanimous that the license fee structure for Ohio residents needs to be updated, and said the organizations will be pushing for that change in the next budget process.

Chair Rep. Al Landis (R-Dover) said Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta) will be proposing the amendment to establish the discount cap, and added that the document will be circulated to members later in the week.

Bill Ebert of Ducks Unlimited offered similar thoughts, saying that the 12%-14% discounts that are being proposed could wind up reducing the funds available for wildlife conservation.

"I have been a business owner for over thirty years," he said. "I am acutely aware of while being as competitive as possible, there is a bottom line that has to be achieved." Rather than offering the larger discounts, he said the reductions should not exceed 5% to make sure the Division of Wildlife has the ability to perform its duties.

Bryan Ralston, executive director of the Boating Associations of Ohio and president of the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association, also offered written proponent testimony, saying the bill creates common-sense updates to the fee structure. He said the group specifically backs sections that allow the issuance of 12-month fishing licenses, rather than having all licenses expire at the same time regardless of when they were issued.

He also supported a section that requires Lake Erie stamps for non-Ohio residents who walleye fish the lake and tributaries between January and April. The funding from the stamps, he said, would directly support Lake Erie initiatives.

Physician Assistants Back Streamlining Practice Regulations

A group representing physician assistants urged a Senate panel Tuesday to back a proposal adjusting regulations that would allow them to work more broadly within their scope of practice.

The measure (SB 259) is designed to streamline procedures for physician assistants and make it easier for them to work as part of medical teams, supporters told the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee.

Josanne Pagel, government affairs director for the Ohio Association of Physician Assistants, said the proposal would improve the administrative procedures for PAs and ensure they can act to the full extent of their licensure and training.

The legislation would increase the ratio of physician assistants supervised by a physician at any one time from three to five and smooth the process for PAs who move to Ohio from other states, she said. It would also allow PAs and physicians to collaborate on the best treatment and medication for patients, including enabling PAs to perform rapid intubation and procedural sedation in a facility.

"PAs are currently permitted and privileged to perform intubation," Ms. Pagel said. "To be able to do so in life threatening situations, they must be able to order and perform procedural sedation. In fact, procedural sedation is a critical component to modern health care in a hospital setting and it will benefit overall patient care to allow PAs to perform this procedure."

The measure would require PAs to be credentialed and privileged according to Joint Commission standards and hospital policy, along with proctored training in the facility, she said. It would also limit where a PA can perform procedural sedation to within a hospital setting.

Ms. Pagel told Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) the procedural sedation and rapid intubation would only be allowed in specific emergency situations. The procedure would be needed for someone who is in respiratory distress and who cannot wait for another provider to give the service, Ms. Pagel said.

Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) asked how the number of PAs a physician can supervise was determined.

Most states allow the physician to determine how many they want to supervise, and the association determined 5-to-1 was a good number for Ohio based on a review of patient outcomes, Ms. Pagel said.

"We wanted to give the opportunity for health systems across Ohio, should they need it in their practice, at the will of the physician, to go up to five," she said.

Ms. Pagel told Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) that the bill would still allow PAs to delegate the administration of medication as long as they are allowed to prescribe that medication.

Dr. Jonathan Leizman, medical director for Cleveland Clinic At Work, which runs 10 employee health clinics for Ohio employers, said physicians serve as the leaders of care teams that include nurses, physician assistants and others.

"It is our belief that physician assistants should practice within their competencies, to the extent that their licensure allows, and under appropriate supervision," he said.

He expressed support for the proposal, which would help the clinic and other providers build on their team-based model by employing physician assistants to work as part of that team.

Opponents Say 'Sexting' Bill Is Unnecessary

The state's prosecutors and the ACLU of Ohio were on the same page Tuesday in opposing a "sexting" bill.

Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association Executive Director Lou Tobin told members of the House Criminal Justice Committee that prosecutors already regularly seek diversion of juveniles engaged in sexting.

Mr. Tobin also said the bill (HB 355) could essentially handcuff the state's prosecutors.

"Our great concern with House Bill 355 then is that a court of appeals will find that the new prohibition on possession or distribution of 'sexually explicit digital material' covers essentially the same conduct as pandering obscenity involving a minor, pandering sexually oriented material involving a minor or the illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material."

He also said that sexting is not always a victimless crime.

"I say this only to point out that for every high-profile case about the negative effects on someone accused of sexting, there is an equally sad story about a victim whose life was irreparably changed," he said.

Gary Daniels, chief lobbyist for the ACLU of Ohio, said the legislation creates a brand new criminal offense despite prosecutors and judges already have options for serious charges in cases of sexting.

He called the measure "counterproductive and unnecessary."

"Indeed, this bill in no way requires prosecutors to utilize this new misdemeanor offense or judges to sentence young people to only community service," he said. "It only gives them that option."

In that vein, Mr. Daniels called on the panel to scrap the measure.

"It creates additional problems with no guarantee it will solve any," he said. "It involves government in numerous, unwelcome instances. The ACLU of Ohio urges rejection of this well-meaning but misguided and harmful legislation."

Erin Davies, executive director of the Juvenile Justice Coalition, testified as an interested party but raised a host of concerns with the bill, including the fact that it does not take into account that Ohio law allows youth to consent to sexual activity at 16.

She also said the bill is a one-size-fits-all approach that lacks prevention and education and allows for double charging.

"JJC acknowledges the changing landscape of technology and appreciates the legislature acknowledging this shifting ground. However, we are concerned that the approach taken by the bill may over-criminalize relatively typical, age appropriate sexual exploration between adolescents that becomes amplified by advances in technology," she said.

"We must have a response that strikes a balance that leaves room for youth to learn and make mistakes while being held accountable for their actions; however, this accountability does not necessarily have to come through the court system."

Lawmaker Pushes For New Report-Card System

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) on Tuesday delivered a blunt assessment of the state's A-F report card system for school districts.

"Nobody likes the current Ohio school district report card," he said during an informal hearing on a new proposal of his ([HB 591](#)) to revise the system.

Mr. Duffey pointed to his home district, the Worthington City School District, in his criticism of the existing system. Worthington schools received C's in four of six graded categories on its most recent report card, which Mr. Duffey said does not accurately reflect the district's relatively high overall performance.

Mr. Duffey said a report card system that gives low letter grades to high-performing districts could be confusing or discouraging to people looking to move to Ohio.

"We're sending them bad signals about what's going on in our school districts right now," he told the House Education & Career Readiness Committee.

Mr. Duffey said he prefers a "dashboard" of comprehensible information about a district as opposed to the existing letter system. He said an ideal system would allow for an apples-to-apples comparison of districts, while presenting information comprehensible to the public.

"Everyone can see the methodology and everyone can understand the methodology because it's not overly complex," he said.

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) said the sponsor "laid out a great case" for the measure, but asked what would happen to state accountability standards for districts that are based on the existing system.

Mr. Duffey said he viewed the topic as a "related but separate discussion."

"When you change the report card, you have to figure out how you're going to map the accountability triggers that exist in Ohio law," he said.

Rep. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati) asked Mr. Duffey what effect the new system would have on districts with a high percentage of underprivileged students.

The sponsor said he thinks the change would benefit high-poverty districts by eliminating pass-fail style metrics and more accurately reflecting their performances.

"The reform in the report card would be hugely advantageous for districts with high poverty," he said.

Mr. Duffey said conversations with officials at statewide education associations regarding the change have been positive.

"The big three have been eager to pass something like this this year," he said.

Opposition To Small Cell Wireless Bill Softens Following Senate Changes

Wireless provider Crown Castle dropped its opposition to legislation to expand small-cell wireless deployment following Tuesday's adoption of substitute language by the Senate Public Utilities Committee.

Crown Castle last month threatened to sue to halt the implementation of the bill, which is a compromise on 5G deployment in public rights-of-way reached following months of talks between wireless providers and municipalities. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, March 22, 2018](#))

The company claimed the legislation - backed by entities including the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor's Alliance, the Municipal League and Verizon - would violate the federal Communications Act and limit the ability of it and its competitors to expand their business in Ohio. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, March 15, 2018](#))

The sub bill ([HB 478](#)) makes three major changes that were hammered out during recent talks between senators and Crown Castle in an effort to earn support. Those changes include:

- Clarifying the definition of a small cell facility operator.
- Requiring a city to include on the license and on an application a line for the disclosure of who will own the facility or support structure.
- Ensuring an organization that does not meet the definition of an operator may still request a municipalities consent to collocate a small cell facility or build a wireless support structure or alter an already existing one.

Chairman [Sen. Bill Beagle](#) (R-Tipp City) said the legislation could be put to a vote as early as Wednesday, teeing it up for potential consideration on the Senate floor later that day.

In an April 9 letter to Senate President [Larry Obhof](#) (R-Medina) and Sen. Beagle, Crown Castle government relations manager Paul Gilbert thanked lawmakers for considering their concerns.

"While we feel the final product leaves issues on the table for possible future discussion, the amendments agreed to by the committee and the coalition of municipalities take us farther toward addressing our immediate business concerns," Mr. Gilbert wrote.

Haran Rashes, external relations director for ExteNet Systems Inc., testified that the group's concerns are also resolved thanks to the substitute version.

"With the amendments, Ohio can benefit from infrastructure improvement which are funded and build by private entities such as ExteNet," Mr. Rashes said.

But Dave George, market director for Columbus-based CNX, voiced his continued opposition to the plan. He said the expansion of small cell technology will compromise community aesthetics, increase revenue streams for the industry at the expense of Ohio cities, and result in more abandoned wireless facilities.

He also questioned proponent claims that 5G technology will bypass Ohio for other states without the legislation.

"In their opposition testimony two weeks ago, Crown Castle stated that they had already deployed 910 sites in Ohio," Mr. George said. "Anecdotal evidence from similar providers like Crown Castle is that those companies are also investing in the deployment of small cell locations throughout Ohio. These types of deployments are occurring despite the fact that there is no small cell legislation in current effect in Ohio."

Lastly, the committee heard from citizen Kathy Dirr who urged lawmakers to place a moratorium on small cell antennas which she said emit radiation causing cancer and other ill effects.

Advocates: SNAP Photo ID Law Would Hinder Food Access, Have Little Effect On Fraud

A legislative proposal to require photos on electronic benefit transfer cards in an effort to reduce food assistance fraud would be costly to the state and have little effect on bad actors, advocacy groups told senators Tuesday.

Outcomes in other states indicate the plan ([HB 50](#)) would likely cause people to be unfairly denied purchases due to confusion about the policy, they told the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee.

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, said the legislation does not meet federal requirements. Those include providing an accommodation for those with an undue hardship, such as caretakers of household members, residents of rural areas, or the homeless, she said.

"The point I hope you take away from this is that the EBT photograph requirement is more nuanced than has been previously articulated, and the bill as drafted fails to adhere to federal regulatory requirements," she said.

When a similar program was implemented in Massachusetts, it led to startup costs of about \$8.4 million and about \$400,000 in annual costs of notices to clients, she said.

"While this bill is purported to 'deter and detect crime,' in all actuality, House Bill 50 will not be a deterrent for fraudulent activity when those who are willing to engage in trafficking are in collusion, and thus complicit, in this crime," she said. "What it will do is deter hungry low-income families from applying for, or from retaining the benefits they are eligible to receive."

That's in contrast to claims by proponents and sponsors who argue the legislation would protect the integrity of the SNAP system. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, January 23, 2018](#))

Ms. Hamler-Fugitt told [Sen. Matt Huffman](#) (R-Lima) that she believed the program will cost more money than the annual \$1 million -3 million estimated by the Legislative Service Commission based on the program in Massachusetts.

She said she believed the photo requirement is unnecessary and "in search of a problem that does not exist," but could have a chilling and discriminatory effect on recipients.

Graham Bowman, staff attorney with the Ohio Poverty Law Center, said the legislation will cause confusion and longer lines for retailers, and would also cost time and resources to implement. He agreed it would be ineffective at reducing fraud.

In other states, problems with retailers denying purchases because the buyer's photo was not on the card, despite requirements that they not do so, led to retailers ignoring the photos on the cards altogether, he said.

"If HB50 becomes law, we anticipate that legal aid organizations throughout the state will experience an influx of SNAP cases where recipients were improperly denied use of their SNAP benefits at retailers who misunderstood the rules of the SNAP program," he said.

Joel Potts, executive director of the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association, said the state is already effective at detecting and dealing with fraud in the SNAP program.

"Despite no dedicated funding source for county agencies, Ohio is one of the leading states in the country in identifying fraud and collections," he said. "Fraud and abuse investigations can be extremely complex, involving local law enforcement, as well as require prosecutor and court actions."

The legislation poses a variety of concerns regarding implementation, Mr. Potts said. County JFS agencies don't have photo equipment and being able to use photos from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles would not be helpful for

all SNAP enrollees.

Brie Lusheck, public policy associate at the Center for Community Solutions, suggested more emphasis should be placed on outreach to SNAP-eligible Ohioans who are not enrolled and could benefit.

"SNAP also plays an important role in reducing senior hunger and improving senior health," she said. "Research has shown that older adults enrolled in Medicaid, who also receive SNAP, are less likely to be hospitalized or admitted to a nursing home, significantly reducing health care spending and helping older adults age in place. However, our research found that 60 percent of older Ohioans who are eligible for SNAP are not enrolled in the program."

Proponents Tout Benefits Of Bill Designed To Increase Judicial Discretion

Leaders of the state's prison system and a judicial group on Tuesday went to bat for legislation designed to create more judicial discretion in dealing with convicted felons.

Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Director Gary Mohr said one of the most important provisions in the measure (SB 66) adds "promoting the effective rehabilitation of the offender" to the purpose of felony sentencing.

He also spoke highly of expanding intervention in lieu of conviction and record sealing.

"Upon release, it is ideal that a returning citizen is able to get a job, contribute to the tax base, and become a contributing member of the community. But for too many returned citizens, their criminal records make it difficult to find work," he told members of the House Criminal Justice Committee.

"They are unable to provide for their families, they become homeless, reliant on public assistance or end up reoffending and sent back behind bars. This is not the way to reduce crime and recidivism in Ohio."

But Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville) questioned if the bill strikes the right balance between public safety and rehabilitation.

Mr. Mohr said he believes it does and that is why violent and sexual offenses are excluded. "I think our best decisions are the ones when we look individually at people," he said.

Paul Pfeifer, executive director of the Ohio Judicial Conference, said much the same in proponent testimony.

"These changes, in aggregate, provide for courts and for probation departments a greater level of control over the use of limited resources," he said. "Judges are in the best position to determine what sanction or sanctions an offender needs and how long those sanctions should be in place, and this bill allows judges more options in making these decisions."

Wendy Tarr of the Vincentian Ohio Action Network said the measure will allow those who previously made mistakes to improve their lives.

"If we are going to make significant headway in reducing our prison population and helping people more effectively reintegrate, we also need to be looking at provisions that address root causes and expand sealing options also for those with more serious felony convictions," she said.

"I believe that granting judges more discretion in sentencing, diversion options, and record sealing on a case by case basis for all individuals who do not pose a serious ongoing threat to society will help achieve one of the stated goals of rehabilitation being a purpose for a felony conviction."

Mike Randle, president of the Ohio Community Corrections Association, said the measure will "increase treatment options, reduce recidivism, and allow Ohio's overcrowded prisons to focus on those who pose the greatest threat to public safety."

The panel also received written proponent testimony from Jimmy and Dee Haslam and the Justice Action Network.

Trump Nominates Two Ohioans For Federal Judgeships

The leader of Ohio's workers' compensation system is among two judicial nominees from the state announced Tuesday by President Donald Trump.

The White House reported that Bureau of Workers' Compensation Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison and Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge Pamela Barker and have been nominated to serve as federal district court judges.

Ms. Morrison, who holds a law degree from Capital University, has led the BWC since May 2016 after joining the bureau in November 2012. Prior to that, she was a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP in Columbus.

She was recommended for a seat on the bench by U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 29, 2017)

Ms. Morrison was nominated to serve on the District Court of the Southern District of Ohio. Judge Barker has been tapped to sit on the bench in the District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

"I am honored to be nominated for the position of federal district judge, and I sincerely appreciate the support of Senators Portman and Brown," Ms. Morrison said in a statement.

Both Ohio senators in statements applauded the nominations.

"Administrator Morrison enjoys widespread support because of her significant experience in both the public and private sectors, including her time as CEO of Ohio's Bureau of Workers Compensation. She will make Ohio proud in this new role," Sen. Portman said.

Added Sen. Brown: "Sarah Morrison is a seasoned lawyer and public servant who has what it takes to serve Ohio's Southern District. She brings a broad range of legal experience to the table, which will help her tackle the issues she will face as a judge. I'm pleased to join Senator Portman in supporting her nomination."

Judge Barker has served in the Cuyahoga County court for the past seven years. Prior to winning election to the common pleas court, she served as a magistrate and juvenile diversion magistrate in the Brecksville Mayor's Court for 11 years. She earned her law degree from Ohio State University.

The judge said in a statement she is "honored and humbled" by the nomination.

"I would like to thank President Trump, Senator Portman, and Senator Brown for the confidence and trust they have placed in me to fulfill this very important role," Judge Barker added.

Sen. Portman said she is "prepared to hit the ground running and honorably serve the people of Ohio."

"She has the necessary experience and sound judgement to be a great federal judge and will make Ohio proud in this new role," he said.

Sen. Brown said she "will bring the right combination of experience, commitment and talent" to the court.

Capitol Scene: Miller named LWVO Director

Jen Miller, the former executive director of the Sierra Club's Ohio chapter, has been named executive director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio, the group announced Tuesday.

She starts in the new role May 1 and will be introduced at the group's Statehouse Day on Wednesday.

Ms. Miller has worked with the Sierra Club in different roles since 2008. Over her career, she has worked on social and environmental justice issues through positions at the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, the King Arts Complex, Global Gallery and Ohio State University.

She succeeds former executive director Carrie Davis and Beth Taggart, who served in the interim role after Ms. Davis left.

Ms. Miller holds an undergraduate degree from Capital University and earned a master's degree from OSU's John Glenn School of Public Affairs.

Governor's Appointments

Forestry Advisory Council: David M. Hix, PhD of Hilliard and William G. Stanley, MFS of Columbus for terms beginning April 10, 2018, and ending February 27, 2022.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, April 11

League of Women Voters of Ohio Statehouse Day

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin), economic officials' news conference on wind energy legislation, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 12 p.m.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, April 19

State Audit Committee, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, May 9

State Personnel Board of Review, 12th Fl., 65 E. State St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, May 23


State Personnel Board of Review, 12th Fl., 65 E. State St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

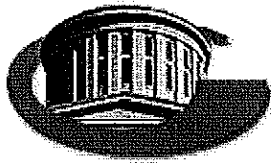
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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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GONGWER Ohio

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, April 11

Legislative Committees

House Health (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

HB CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (Ginter, T., Sprague, R.) To require pharmacists to offer to dispense 231 controlled substances in lockable or tamper-evident containers. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB STROKE PATIENTS (Lipps, S., Antonio, N.) To provide for recognition of stroke centers and 464 establishment of protocols for assessment, treatment, and transport to hospitals of stroke patients. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB NURSING OVERTIME (Sprague, R.) To prohibit a hospital from requiring a registered nurse or licensed 456 practical nurse to work overtime as a condition of continued employment. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

HB TELEMEDICINE (Patton, T.) To prohibit health benefit plans from treating telemedicine services 546 differently from in-person health care services solely because they are provided as telemedicine services. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB CHILD IMMUNIZATIONS (Gonzales, A., Landis, A.) To make changes to the law governing 559 immunization of children enrolled in school, preschool programs, and day-care programs. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB VOLUNTEER HEALTH SERVICES (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To authorize health professionals 541 licensed in other states to provide volunteer health services during charitable events. (2nd Hearing-PropONENT)

HB PRESCRIBING AUTHORITY (Seitz, B., Gavarone, T.) To authorize certain psychologists to prescribe 326 psychotropic and other drugs for the treatment of drug addiction and mental illness. (2nd Hearing-PropONENT)

HB STEP THERAPY (Johnson, T., Antonio, N.) To adopt requirements related to step therapy protocols 72 implemented by health plan issuers and the Department of Medicaid. (5th Hearing-All testimony)

HB ART THERAPY (Anielski, M.) To require the licensure of art therapists and to require the State Medical 557 Board to regulate the licensure and practice of art therapists. (2nd Hearing-PropONENT)

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HBDISASTER WORK (Ryan, S.) To create the Disaster Relief Act to exempt out-of-state disaster businesses 133 and qualifying out-of-state employees from certain taxes and laws with respect to disaster work on critical infrastructure performed in this state during a declared disaster. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Beagle, B., 466-6247), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:15 a.m.

HB WIRELESS SERVICES (Smith, R., LaTourette, S.) To modify the law regarding wireless service and the 478 placement of small cell wireless facilities in the public way. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 114, 9:30 a.m.

- Hearing on autonomous and connected vehicles involving Michael Farley, Ohio Insurance Institute; David Braun, P&C Operations; Ryan Gammelgard, State Farm; Andrew Kirkner, NAMIC; Robert Passmore, Property Casualty Insurers Association of America and Kelsey Brunette, Munich Reinsurance America

HB VEHICLE TOWING (Gonzales, A.) To require only one notice to be sent to a vehicle owner and any 384 known lienholder after a vehicle is towed from a private tow-away zone. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB ROAD NAMING (McClain, R.) To designate a portion of U.S. Route 30 in Wyandot and Crawford 537 Counties as the "Lt. Harry L. Martin Memorial Highway." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB MOTORCYCLE OPERATION (McClain, R.) To permit a person to wear earplugs for hearing protection 548 while operating a motorcycle. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 313, 9:30 a.m.

HB MARIJUANA PAYMENTS (Seitz, B.) Relating to the closed-loop payment processing system under the 495 medical marijuana control program. (5th Hearing-All testimony)

HB TAX CREDIT (Schuring, K.) To extend eligibility for the motion picture tax credit to certain live stage 525 theater productions, to increase the maximum amount of credits that may be awarded from \$40 million to \$100 million per fiscal year, and to make other revisions to the law governing administration of the credit. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

HB BLENDING LAWS (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.) To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum 123 duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 116, 10 a.m.

HCR HEALTH CARE (Sykes, E.) To urge the Congress of the United States, and in particular the Ohio 5 Congressional delegation, to support the preservation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB WORKERS' COMPENSATION (Henne, M.) To allow groups of employers to be granted status as a 459 self-insuring employer for purposes of the Workers' Compensation Law. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB VISION CARE INSURANCE (Schuring, K.) Regarding limitations imposed by health insurers on vision 156 care services. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

Tax Expenditure Review Committee (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Senate North Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

- Review of sales to churches and certain other non-profit organizations; sales to the state, any of its political subdivisions and certain other states; sales by churches and certain types of non-profit organizations; tangible personal property used primarily in manufacturing tangible personal property and packaging and packaging equipment

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

SB THEFT IN OFFICE (Wilson, S.) To expand the increased penalties for theft in office based on the amount 268 of property or services stolen and to include as restitution certain audit costs of the entity that suffered the loss involved in the offense. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB FIREARM ACCESSORIES (Thomas, C.) To prohibit certain conduct regarding trigger cranks, bump-fire 219 devices, and other items that accelerate a semi-automatic firearm's rate of fire but do not convert it into an automatic firearm. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB FIREARM ACCESS (Schiavoni, J., Williams, S.) To enact the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act to allow

278 family members, household members, and law enforcement officers to obtain a court order that temporarily restricts a person's access to firearms if that person poses a danger to themselves or others. (Informal Hearing-Sponsor)

HBCHILD ABUSE REPORTING (Kent, B.) To make municipal and county peace officers mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB FIREARM OWNERSHIP (LaRose, F.) Regarding a tenant of subsidized rental premises owning, using, or possessing a firearm, a firearm component, or ammunition within the tenant's residential dwelling unit. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS (Dolan, M.) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB PRISON TERMS (Bacon, K., O'Brien, S.) To provide for indefinite prison terms for first or second degree felonies and specified third degree felonies, with presumptive release of offenders sentenced to such a term at the end of the minimum term; to generally allow the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to reduce the minimum term for exceptional conduct or adjustment to incarceration; to allow the Department to rebut the release presumption and keep the offender in prison up to the maximum term if it makes specified findings; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HBECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Hambley, S., Rogers, J.) To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING (McColley, R.) To establish a statewide policy on occupational regulation, to require standing committees of the General Assembly to periodically review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset, and to require the Legislative Service Commission to perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

House Higher Education & Workforce Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11 a.m.

HBAPPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS (Hagan, C., Dean, B.) To create a subprogram of the College Credit Plus Program that permits students to participate in certified apprenticeship programs. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HBSUMMER JOBS (Barnes, J.) To require the Director of Development Services to establish a youth summer jobs pledging initiative to increase access to summer employment opportunities for high school and college youth. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HBMONTH DESIGNATION (Barnes, J.) To enact the "Respect Your Date Act" to designate the month of April as "Respect Your Date Month" and to require each state institution of higher education to adopt a policy regarding dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and rape on campus and to declare an emergency. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House Civil Justice (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 121, 3 p.m. or after session

HBDESIGN CONTRACTS (Seitz, B.) To regulate the use of indemnity provisions in professional design contracts related to public improvements. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBESTATE LAW (Cupp, R., Rezabek, J.) Relative to procedures for a testator to file a declaratory judgment action to declare the validity of a will prior to death and the settlor of a trust to file such an action to declare its validity, exceptions to antilapse provisions in class gifts in wills and trusts, incorporation of a written trust into a will, trusts for a minor, arbitration of trust disputes, the creation of county and multicounty

guardianship services boards, and coroner's disposition of person dying of suspicious or unusual death.
(Informal hearing)

HBMULTI-PARCEL AUCTIONS (Hill, B.) To establish requirements governing multi-parcel auctions. (2nd 480Hearing-Proponent)

HBEMERGENCY LIABILITY (Henne, M.) To modify the defense to the liability of a member of a police or 419fire department or emergency medical service of a political subdivision for the negligent operation of a motor vehicle in response to an emergency by requiring that the vehicle has its lights and sirens simultaneously activated. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Community & Family Advancement (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022), Rm. 114, 3 p.m. or after session

HBDRUG OVERDOSES (Gavarone, T.) To require certain reports regarding overdoses and naloxone, to 535include naltrexone within the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System, and to name this act the "Opioid Data and Communication Expansion Act." (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HBSUBSTANCE ABUSE (Young, R.) To require the Department of Health to publish monthly drug overdose 427death information for each county, to create grant programs to support faith-based substance abuse services, to authorize an income tax deduction for physicians providing such services for free, and to allocate funds and make an appropriation for the grant programs. (6th Hearing-Possible amendments)

HBMARRIAGE AGE (Lanese, L., Rogers, J.) To make changes to the laws governing the ages at which 511persons may marry. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HBPRIVATE IMAGES (Rogers, J., Manning, N.) To prohibit the nonconsensual dissemination of private 497sexual images, to require that certain property involved in the offense be criminally forfeited, and to create certain legal rights and employment protections of a victim of the offense. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB CHILD SUPPORT (Beagle, B.) To make changes to the laws governing child support. (1st Hearing-125Sponsor-Possible vote)

Senate Education (*Committee Record*) (Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.

HBCOMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Roegner, K.) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a 87 finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBESC BOARDS (Hambley, S., Kick, D.) To permit the addition of appointed members to educational service 438center boards, to permit a local school district to sever its territory from one educational service center and annex that territory to an adjacent service center under specified conditions, and to authorize educational service centers to establish local professional development committees. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBCOMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Hambley, S.) Regarding verification of community school enrollments. (4th 21 Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

Agency Calendar

Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, Rm. 1914, 77 S. High St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

Real Estate Commission, 22nd Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 9 a.m.

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, Ohio State University's South Centers, 1864 Shyville Road, Piketon, 9:30 a.m. (Economic Development Regional Review Committee)

State Emergency Response Commission, 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, 10 a.m. (The full commission meeting at 1:15 p.m. will be preceded starting at 10 a.m. by concurrent meetings of the Administration and Funding, Operations and Issues, and Training and Education committees from 10-11:30 a.m., and an Executive Committee session from 12:15-1 p.m.)

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

League of Women Voters of Ohio Statehouse Day

Rep. Bernadine Kent (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$250 to Kent for Ohio. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-427-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

Ohio General Assembly Cancer Caucus, Senate Finance Hearing Room, Statehouse, Columbus, 8 a.m., (The committee will hear presentations and engage in conversation on the role of opioids in cancer treatment, palliative care efforts in cancer treatment and discussion of field visits to local cancer centers)

Ohio Library Council Legislative Day, Statehouse and Capital Club, 50 S. Front St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) and Rep. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati) news conference on legislation addressing deceptive caller ID practices, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser with special guest Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls), The Goat, 219 S. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1000; Host:\$500; Chair:\$350 to Lanese for Ohio)

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Condado, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin), economic officials' news conference on wind energy legislation, Press Briefing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 12 p.m.

Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) fundraiser, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1,000; \$500; \$350)

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) & Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Peterson for Good Government and/or Steve Wilson for Ohio)

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) and Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) fundraiser, The Buckeye Bourdon House, 36 E. Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Chair: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee and Citizens for Perales)

Tom Bullock (D-Candidate 13th House District) fundraiser, Dempsey's Food & Spirits, 346 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$50 Friend | \$100 Host | \$250 Patron to Tom Bullock for Ohio)

Sen. Sean O'Brien (D-Bazetta) and Rep. John Boccieri (D-Alliance) fundraiser, Condado Tacos Downtown, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Contribution Levels: \$1,000, \$500, \$350)

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GONGWER Ohio
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House Activity for Tuesday, April 10, 2018

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

HR WORKER VISAS (Young, R.) To urge President Donald J. Trump, members of his administration, and the Congress of the United States to revise the requirements for the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker Visa Program established under the Immigration and Nationality Act to reduce the cost and regulatory impact on employers who utilize the Program.

Federalism & Interstate Relations

HCRJERUSALEM (Faber, K., Keller, C.) To recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel.

Federalism & Interstate Relations

HCRASIAN CARP (Smith, K., Rogers, J.) To express support for the United States Army Corps of Engineers in its efforts to stop the Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes and to support federal funding of those efforts.

Energy & Natural Resources

HCRLEGISLATIVE STAFF (Smith, K., Dever, J.) To urge the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate to increase the compensation of House and Senate staff.

Government Accountability & Oversight

INTRODUCED

HBCOURT RECORDS (Ramos, D.) To permit sealing of records pertaining to multiple criminal offenses that resulted from drug-seeking behavior if the offender has successfully completed a drug treatment program and to name the act the Ohio Second Chance Act. Am. 2953.31

HBDASHBOARD RECORDINGS (Ramos, D.) To provide that portions of a peace officer's dashboard camera recordings that show an officer being killed or suffering grievous bodily harm in the line of duty are not public records and generally are confidential and may not be released. Am. 149.43 and to enact section 149.436

HBLOCAL GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS (Ramos, D.) To provide for payments to municipalities or school districts for their lost income tax revenue after a business lays off 50 or more employees within their jurisdiction. Am. 131.46

HBESTATE LAW (Cupp, R., Rezabek, J.) Relative to procedures for a testator to file a declaratory judgment action to declare the validity of a will prior to death and the settlor of a trust to file such an action to declare its validity, exceptions to antilapse provisions in class gifts in wills and trusts, incorporation of a written trust into a will, trusts for a minor, arbitration of trust disputes, the creation of county and multicounty guardianship services boards, and coroner's disposition of person dying of suspicious or unusual death. Am.

313.14, 2101.24, 2107.01, 2107.05, 2107.07, 2107.08, 2107.09, 2107.10, 2107.11, 2107.12, 2107.16, 2107.18, 2107.20, 2107.22, 2107.33, 2107.52, 2107.71, 2137.01, 2721.03, 5802.03, 5806.04, and 5808.19, to enact sections 2111.182, 2111.52, 5802.05, 5817.01, 5817.02, 5817.03, 5817.04, 5817.05, 5817.06, 5817.07, 5817.08, 5817.09, 5817.10, 5817.11, 5817.12, 5817.13, and 5817.14, and to repeal sections 2107.081, 2107.082, 2107.083, 2107.084, and 2107.085

HB ABSENTEE VOTING (Ramos, D.) To specify the conditions under which a board of county **596** commissioners may establish one or more branch offices of the board of elections for in-person absent voting. Am. 3501.10, 3503.16, 3509.02, 3509.03, 3509.05, 3511.02, and 3511.10

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

HB PHYSICAL THERAPY (Gavarone, T., Reineke, B.) To modify the laws governing the practice of physical **131** therapy.

Wednesday, April 11

HB DAY DESIGNATION (Patmon, B.) To designate June 12th as "Superman Day." **135**

Wednesday, April 11

HB OUTDOOR DINING AREAS (Lanese, L.) To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to **263** take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation.

Wednesday, April 11

HB SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications **318** and responsibilities of school resource officers.

Earlier REPORTED-AMENDED (See separate story)

Gongwer Coverage

HB BULLYING (Greenspan, D.) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school **360** discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges.

Wednesday, April 11

HB BROADBAND GRANTS (Smith, R., Cera, J.) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program **378** and to make an appropriation.

Wednesday, April 11

HB FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (Dever, J.) To provide some regulatory and tax relief to state banks and **489** credit unions, to provide for data analytics to be conducted on publicly available information regarding banks, credit unions, and consumer finance companies, to modify when a creditor can file a claim against an estate, to require registration of mortgage loan servicers, and to require a specified notice be given to a debtor for certain debt collection.

Wednesday, April 11

HB OHIO CORPS (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the hb Pilot Project and to make an appropriation. **508**

Earlier REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (See separate story)

Gongwer Coverage

HR CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL (Antonio, N., Strahorn, F.) A resolution urging Congress to award a **193** Congressional Gold Medal to the late Senator John Glenn and Mrs. Annie Glenn.

Wednesday, April 11

HR DRUG USE (Young, R., Ginter, T.) To recognize the efforts and successes of the faith-based community in **299** supporting and assisting individuals who are suffering from opioid and other drug abuse and addiction.

Wednesday, April 11

REFERRED

Aging & Long Term Care:

SB ELDER FRAUD (Wilson, S.) To develop best practices and educational opportunities to combat elder **158** fraud and exploitation and to fine and require full restitution from offenders who are found guilty of certain fraud-related crimes against the elderly.

HB LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE (Fedor, T.) To impose limitations on long-term care premium rate **567** increases.

HB RETIREMENT CREDIT (Scherer, G., Howse, S.) Regarding Public Employees Retirement System **572** service credit for services as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities.

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security:

HB 579 DAY DESIGNATION (Ramos, D.) To declare November 23rd as "Fleet Admiral Ernest Joseph King Day."

Community & Family Advancement:

HB MEDICAID PAYMENTS (Ingram, C.) To permit parents and guardians to be paid for providing personal **574** care or similar services to their children or wards enrolled in a Medicaid waiver program under certain circumstances.

Criminal Justice:

SB PROSTITUTION (Dolan, M., Manning, G.) To amend the penalties for promoting prostitution. **244**

HB SEX OFFENSES (Boggs, K., Lanese, L.) To eliminate the spousal exceptions for the offenses of rape, **561** sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition, sexual imposition, and

- importuning and to permit a person to testify against the person's spouse in a prosecution for any of those offenses.

HBMOVING VIOLATIONS (Butler, J.) To authorize a law enforcement officer to arrest a driver of a motor **568** vehicle if the officer has probable cause to believe that the driver committed a moving violation and that the

- moving violation was a contributing factor in a motor vehicle accident that caused serious physical harm to or the death of another person, to authorize the officer to request a warrant to conduct a chemical test to determine whether the driver was under the influence of drugs or alcohol if there is probable cause to do so, to authorize the officer to order the administration of a chemical test under specified circumstances, to require the mandatory bindover (for trial as an adult rather than a juvenile) of a 16- or 17- year-old who is alleged to have committed aggravated vehicular homicide, and to designate this act as "Sophie's Law."

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor:

HBCIGARETTE PRICES (Scherer, G., Cera, J.) Regarding cigarette minimum pricing. **566**

HBOCCUPATIONAL LICENSING (Henne, M.) To limit the occupational license and registration **583** requirements and fees that a political subdivision may impose on state-regulated occupations, to establish a

- waiver exempting certain persons from paying occupational license or registration fees, and to revise the licensing restrictions applicable to individuals convicted of criminal offenses.

Education & Career Readiness:

SB SCHOOL REGULATIONS (Huffman, M.) To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" **216** regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs.

Energy & Natural Resources:

HBPARK DRILLING (Leland, D.) To prohibit the drilling of a horizontal well in various state and local parks. **562**

HBINJECTION WELLS (Holmes, G., O'Brien, M.) To establish new setback requirements applicable to new **578** Class II injection wells and to require thirty-seven and one-half per cent of the out-of-district injection well

- fee to be paid directly to the municipal corporation or township in which the injection well is located.

Federalism & Interstate Relations:

HB FIREARM SALES (West, T.) To prohibit a federally licensed firearms dealer from transferring a firearm **563** while a background check is pending unless 30 days have elapsed.

HB FIREARM PURCHASES (West, T.) To require a 72-hour waiting period between the purchase and

564 delivery of firearms and to impose a fine for violating this requirement.

HB GRANT APPLICATIONS (Thompson, A.) To establish procedures that executive agencies must follow **580** when applying for grants, to require the Governor to approve any major grant application, and to permit the Governor to disapprove any minor grant application.

Government Accountability & Oversight:

HB 576 ■ **MINIMUM WAGE** (Kelly, B.) To increase the state minimum wage.

State & Local Government:

HJR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS (Smith, K., Lepore-Hagan, M.) Proposing to enact Section 2t **14** ■ of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to permit the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund sewer and water capital improvements.

Transportation & Public Safety:

HB LICENSE PLATE (Brown, R., Lipps, S.) To create the "Zero" license plate to benefit the nonprofit Zero, **570** the End of Prostate Cancer.

HB ROAD NAMING (Hoops, J.) To designate the portion of U.S. Route 24 in Henry County as the "Henry **573** County Veterans Highway."

HB ROAD NAMING (Landis, A.) To designate a portion of State Route 93 in Tuscarawas County as the "PFC **577** Oscar F. Nicewander Memorial Highway" and a portion of State Route 520 in Holmes County as the "Cpl. Jerry Robert Spitler Memorial Highway."

HB LICENSE PLATE (Miller, A., Boggs, K.) To create the "West High School Alumni Association" license **581** plate and the "Central High School Alumni Association" license plate.

HB ROAD NAMING (Green, D.) To designate the portion of U.S. Route 52 in Clermont County the "Clermont **582** County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway" and the portion of U.S. Route 52 in Brown County the "Brown County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway."

Ways & Means:

HBSERVICES TAX (Lipps, S., Reineke, B.) To modify the standard for determining when the sales and use **569** tax applies to business-related electronic services that are provided together with other services.

HB LODGING TAXES (Greenspan, D.) To specify that, for the purposes of the sales and use tax and local

571lodging taxes, the "price" on the basis of which a hotel intermediary must collect and remit the tax is the total amount paid by the customer for the hotel lodging, as advertised by the hotel intermediary.

HBVOLUNTEER TAX CREDITS (Keller, C., Rezabek, J.) To grant income tax credits to persons who serve **575**as volunteer firefighters or emergency medical service technicians.

HB TAX DEDUCTION (Cera, J., Rogers, J.) To extend an existing income tax deduction for unsubsidized **584**medical insurance premiums to Medicare premiums.

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Ohio Public Works Commission: Randy Riley

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Ways & Means

HB TAX DEDUCTION (Rogers, J., Rezabek, J.) To authorize, for six years, a personal income tax deduction **232**for attorneys and pass-through entity law firms based on the number of hours the attorney performed pro bono legal work for indigent clients through a legal aid society and the expenses associated with that work. (CONTINUED-AMENDED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) won support for an amendment that clarifies the deduction process for attorneys and law firms.

Lake County Common Pleas Court Judge Colleen A. Falkowski submitted written testimony in support of the bill, noting ongoing efforts to increase access to the courts via the Legal Aid Society and promote the provision of pro bono legal services.

"Granting the income tax deduction for time spent volunteering through the Legal Aid Society would certainly be of benefit to self-employed attorneys throughout the state," she wrote. "Also, the deduction may encourage Legal Aid participation for self-employed attorneys in rural communities where the caseloads are not as high.

HB HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (Brenner, A., Ginter, T.) To enhance the homestead exemption for surviving **513**spouses of peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel killed in the line of duty. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo spoke in support of the measure, saying he worked with the sponsors on the proposal and noting the recent deaths of first responders in Westerville, while unrelated to the impetus behind the bill, underscore its benefits to surviving spouses.

"House Bill 513 would be a tangible benefit to families that are impacted by such tragedy," he said. "Surviving spouses would receive a \$50,000 exemption on the market value of their real property for tax purposes."

Providing some examples, Mr. Mingo said a surviving spouse who resides in Columbus could see an annual property tax reduction of \$1,060 and a Westerville resident \$1,336.

"This is a true benefit that will be meaningful to those surviving spouses," he said.

Responding to a question from Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills), the witness said the \$50,000 exemption on property values would not be on top of the current \$25,000 base homestead exemption, rather it would merely double that tax break.

Rep. Wes Retherford (R-Hamilton) asked about tracking and administering the additional benefit. Auditor Mingo said in part due to the relatively few number of first responders who are killed in action, it would be easy to track and recertify the survivor property owners.

He also told the lawmaker that the standard for determining qualification would hinge on law enforcement's "term of art" definition of "in the line of duty."

Chairman Rep. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster), noting a police officer in his district died recently although he incurred the causal injuries on duty 15 years ago, said the issue may have to be clarified in the bill. Mr. Mingo commented that he thought the officer's surviving spouse would qualify under the measure.

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Maumee) asked by the County Auditors' Association of Ohio supports this exemption while determining others would unduly throw off long-held appraisal methods. The witness said the group understands that veterans and first responders are a "certain class of Ohioans" that should be afforded the property tax exemptions. "My fellow auditors get it," he said. "We're for this."

Mr. Mingo told Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) that the bill is limited to a single, chief residence to mirror current homestead exemption law.

HB COLLEGE SAVINGS (Scherer, G., Patterson, J.) To expand the income tax deduction allowed for **524** contributions to Ohio's 529 college savings program to include contributions to 529 programs established by other states. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Attorney Tony Fiore, representing the Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association, spoke in support of the measure. He said it would "encourage Ohioans to choose the savings option that makes the most sense for them and their family - as opposed to one specific plan that may not meet their needs. State tax treatment should not be the sole driver of investment choice."

"A system that provides beneficial state tax treatment for all 529 plans allows for more competition between programs in different states - competition which necessarily leads to better plans and options, lower fees, and potentially increased education savings for families from those lower fees," he said. "Finding ways to increase educational savings is of pressing importance now, since savings rates are low - the personal savings rate of Americans in February 2018 was 3.40% - and college costs are rising quickly."

Mr. Fiore said it cost an average of about \$51,000 per year to attend a four-year private college.

"Since people with a bachelor's degree earn about 66% more on average over the course of their lifetime than those with solely a high school diploma, and a well-educated workforce is a fundamental component of economic development and growth, it makes sense for the state to do everything it can to support family education savings," he said.

HBSALES TAX REMITTANCE (Arndt, S.) To authorize small retailers to remit sales taxes when the retailer **545** receives payment from the purchaser if the payment is received after the purchased item is delivered or the service is provided. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton) said his bill "would allow small businesses defined as a micro business and that have gross sales of less than one million dollars in a calendar year the option to file their sales tax with the Department of Taxation on a cash basis as opposed to the accrual method which is required under current law."

"Allowing small businesses to file their taxes based on the cash method would be beneficial for a few reasons," he said. "First and most importantly, many small businesses struggle with low operating capital especially when first starting out. It is estimated that anywhere from 29-33% of small businesses fail due to a lack of cash flow. Paying taxes based on the accrual method simply places an unnecessary financial burden on small businesses and impedes growth and job creation."

"Secondly, assessing taxes on the cash basis greatly reduces administrative burden. Small businesses are no longer obligated to assess taxes based on when a transaction has deemed to occur but rather on when payments are received," he added.

Rep. Arndt concluded by saying that he hopes "that implementing this legislation will help the mom and pop establishments that add and give so much to our communities."

Agriculture & Rural Development

HB VETERINARY TITLES (LaTourette, S., Huffman, S.) To change professional title of "registered 501 veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse." (REPORTED-No testimony; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) cast the only vote against the report.

Noting his mother was a nurse, he said in an interview after the hearing that "nurse" refers to a person who cares for humans. Another title may be acceptable but calling a registered veterinary technician a nurse would change the meaning of the title within the nursing profession, he added.

Finance

HBSCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (Patterson, J., LaTourette, S.) To define the necessary qualifications 318 and responsibilities of school resource officers. (REPORTED-AMENDED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB OHIO CORPS (Ryan, S., Reineke, B.) To establish the OhioCorps Pilot Project and to make an 508 appropriation. (REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (See separate story); 6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

Public Utilities

HB TELEPHONE REGULATION (Hill, B.) To revise state regulation of telephone companies. 402 (REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (See separate story); 6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB EMS SHIFTS (Patmon, B.) To limit the hours worked in a work shift and to require work breaks for 171 emergency medical service providers. (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute)

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) successfully offered a substitute version that adds the requirement of an additional driver who is CPR certified and anti-retaliatory language protecting fatigued drivers in the last hour of their shift.

Rep. Bill Patmon (D-Cleveland) said his bill provides for public safety and helps to protect paramedics and EMTs.

"Currently, there is no law in the state of Ohio that provides protections for private ambulance drivers in terms of the number of hours that they are required to work," Rep. Patmon said.

In addition, the bill requires an ambulance operated by a private company to employ and licensed EMT or paramedic and a diver who is at least CPR certified and can assist with patient movement, Rep. Patmon said. Having two individuals in the vehicle will allow them to monitor each other for signs of fatigue and will provide additional patient care.

Rep. Patmon told Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy) that since 2013, there have been over 2,000 ambulance crashes in Ohio injuring some 400 people.

The bill will prohibit a paramedic for private ambulance companies from working a shift longer than 12 hours with less than a 10-hour rest period in between shifts and provides protections for individuals who are unable to safely complete a shift due to fatigue during the last hour, he told Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton).

Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) asked if capping the amount of hours that can be worked would require companies to hire more employees.

Rep. Patmon said it would but the requirement that an additional driver be at least CPR certified was a made in response to the concern over the cost of paying two EMTs for each emergency run.

HB ELEVATOR LAW (Patton, T., Cupp, R.) To enact the Model Elevator Law. (CONTINUED-
236 **SUBSTITUTE**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

The panel adopted a substitute version that members were told was developed with the input of the Ohio Homebuilders Association and the Department of Commerce Division of Compliance. It impacts, among other things, definitions and maintains the current regulatory structure for inspections and inspector training. (Comparison Document)

Speaking on behalf of the Elevator Industry Work Preservation Fund, Andrew Herf said the bill will align elevator laws with other construction safety laws in Ohio and in 34 states.

Mr. Herf said life safety is a term to describe anything related to construction that would affect human life in a building. In other areas of construction, if a person is working in a life safety area they are licensed by the state, but not all tradespeople deal with life safety, he said.

All public elevators are life safety systems in Ohio, but the life safety standard does not apply to elevator constructors, Mr. Herf said.

The bill has been crafted by both business and labor groups, he told the committee.

"We will continue to work with the Homebuilders to address the issues they have brought up, but we continue to feel strongly that at the very least an initial inspection of a residential elevator and subsequent inspection upon the transfer of a deed are important safety measures that should remain in place," Mr. Herf said.

Mr. Herf told Rep. Lepore-Hagan that elevator equipment has changed dramatically in the last 75 years and continuing education is a key component of the bill.

He told Rep. Riedel that under current Ohio law, neither an elevator contractor nor an individual mechanic needs to be licensed.

Rep. Ron Hood (R-Ashville) asked if lesser means of regulation, such as certifications or registrations, would be appropriate. Mr. Herf said currently elevator mechanics are unregulated and are asking for licensure because it is the standard regulation across other trades.

Rep. Young asked if elevator accidents have occurred in Ohio. Mr. Herf said yes, but the data is not tracked, and incidents are generally settled privately, except for a few high-profile cases.

Mr. Herf told Rep. Young that non-union entities support the bill.

Norman Martin of Schindler Elevator Corporation said problems arise in his industry when other companies or in-house contractors hire employees who have insufficient training.

"Elevators are extremely complex pieces of equipment and its absolutely necessary for the safety of both workers and elevator passengers in Ohio that those working on them are trained properly and demonstrate a fundamental competency," Mr. Martin told the committee.

Mr. Martin said during his time as Chief Elevator Inspector for the state that a mechanic in Akron, who was not properly trained, was fatally injured when an elevator came down on him. "An accident like this might have been prevented had the mechanic undergone the proper education and training," he said.

Mr. Martin said he is not advocating for one specific training program. "It is incorrect to portray this bill as being exclusive by imposing a mandate that all industry personnel go through the union's training program," he said.

He also gave his support to the creation of an Elevator Board to enforce the functions of the bill.

Rep. Lepore-Hagan asked if the Chief Elevator Inspector is the first to ride a newly installed elevator. Mr. Martin said a member of the state's team of inspectors is the first to ride an elevator prior to operation.

Mr. Martin also told Rep. Lepore-Hagan that many parties could be liable for an accident including the building owner or architect.

He added that if the legislation passes he would expect elevator accidents to decrease, but it is difficult to find statistics because most accidents occur in company buildings and are settled privately.

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) said it seems the accidents do not make the papers but are still harmful to victims and their families.

Mr. Martin told Rep. Riedel that the certification programs take about four years and participants log over 1,000 hours of instruction.

In response to Rep. Riedel, Mr. Martin said he would not expect the licensure requirement to create a back log of work or cause a labor shortage.

Mr. Martin told Rep. Young that public records of elevator accidents are not a mandated public record required to be maintained after an investigation ends.

He added that inspectors are competently trained and funded and completely independent of the installer, which is the focus of this bill.

Rep. West asked if licensure would be needed to restore elevators in historical buildings. Mr. Martin replied that restoration is not included in the scope of the bill.

Kevin Sullivan, the national coordinator for EIWPF, said the public policy implications of ensuring safe elevators and other conveyances are far reaching.

A recent study conducted by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics suggests that jurisdictions which require licensing of elevator mechanics have seen a 26% reduction in the number of accidents and injuries on average, he said. Some jurisdictions saw greater than a 45% reduction. (See Study)

It is dangerous to the worker and to the public for the state to not require elevator mechanics to be licensed, Mr. Sullivan said.

"The bill incorporates the key applicable industry standards and codes developed by experts in the field, including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers," he told the committee.

Mr. Sullivan told Rep. Young that the study cited was based on eight states that collect data on elevator accidents, which does not include Ohio.

Rep. Young said he is hesitant to subject people to over 1,000 hours of training to get a license with little data to use as evidence.

Phillip Isaac, vice president of Gable Elevator, said mandating mechanics to meet training requirements would move the industry in the right direction.

Mr. Isaac said the bill's requirement of an initial inspection for residential elevators and on a deed transfer is important.

"This bill would help make sure that our future pool of employees operate at the same high level that they do today," he told the committee.

Dylan Isenberg, director of government affairs at National Elevator Industry, Inc. said in written testimony that the bill is not exclusionary and both union and non-union programs are available.

"It is paramount that work done on elevators and related equipment is completed by mechanics who demonstrate a fundamental competency and annually update their knowledge to the most current rules and procedures," he wrote.

HB ACCIDENT REPORTS (Ingram, C.) To prohibit the use of information obtained from an accident report **331** by any person for commercial solicitation purposes. (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 1st Hearing-Sponsor-
Possible substitute)

Rep. Riedel motioned to accept the substitute bill changing the period during which those involved in accidents could indicate they do not wish to be solicited to a 30-day period where it had previously been open-ended.

Rep. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati) said her bill will give individuals involved in vehicular accidents the ability to say if they do not want to be contacted by phone for commercial solicitation for the 30 days following the incident.

Currently, accident reports are made public and are used by companies working on behalf of lawyers and medical practitioners to solicit business, the sponsor said. Typically, such calls are made the day following an incident and can be a nuisance for individuals for weeks, she added.

Then for some unsuspecting individuals, solicitation calls trap them into services costing thousands of dollars, Rep. Ingram said.

The bill is not a mandate, she said. Accident reports can continue to be sought by interested entities and can be used to contact accident victims by postal mail if they wish.

"The legislation simply bars solicitors from contacting accident victims via phone calls for 30 days if they indicate that is what they want on the accident report," she said.

Rep. West asked if the intent of the bill is to protect victims of traumatic experiences. Rep. Ingram said the intent to protect is a factor.

Rep. Hood asked how the bill will function if implemented. The sponsor replied that an individual involved in an accident would have the opportunity to indicate their preference regarding solicitation on the incident report.

HB VETERINARY EDUCATION (Kelly, B., Brinkman, T.) To allow a licensed veterinarian to receive up to **433** two continuing education credits per biennium for performing free spaying and neutering services.
(REPORTED; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Dawn Truesdale, co-owner of Linworth Animal Hospital, said in written testimony spaying and neutering animals is the most important way to maintain population control and minimize euthanasia of animals.

"I believe providing the option for clinical, pro-bono CEs will not only enhance the skills of veterinarians who choose this type of educational opportunity - it will provide mores subsidized care and spread awareness of those in need," she wrote.

This bill benefits both the animal shelters in need of donated services and the veterinarians that will provide them, she added.

HCR GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS (Riedel, C., Holmes, G.) To urge Congress to propose the Regulation **24** Freedom Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Bryan Williams, director of government affairs for the Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio, said in written testimony the current process of objecting to administrative regulations often requires costly litigation.

Mechanisms like Ohio's Joint Committee on Agency Review, sunset laws and the Common Sense Initiative are mechanisms to offset the consequences of some administrative regulations, Mr. Williams wrote. "These helpful tools demonstrate previous Ohio General Assemblies' awareness of how Executive branch rule writing authority can run amuck of their legislative intent."

Subscriber's Note: Full testimonies are available on the committee [website](#) under April 10.

Criminal Justice

HB DRUG OFFENSES (Gavarone, T.) To enhance penalties for certain drug offenses committed in the **296** vicinity of a community addiction services provider. (CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE; 4th Hearing-Possible substitute)

Prior to hearing testimony, the panel accepted a substitute version of the bill offered by Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) to remove most of the underlying offenses except trafficking and aggravated trafficking. Marijuana is also excluded, he said. ([Comp doc](#))

Niki Clum, legislative liaison for the Office of the Ohio Public Defender, said in opponent testimony that the penalty enhancements "result in absurd outcomes that disproportionately disadvantage minority communities."

"In densely populated urban areas, an individual is more likely to be within 1,000 feet of community addiction service provider compared to someone in a rural area where the population and buildings are more spread out," she said. "Not to mention community addiction service providers are more likely to be located in urban areas. Since minority populations also tend to be located in urban areas, minorities disproportionately suffer the consequences of these types of enhancements."

HB SEXTING (Hill, B., Rezabek, J.) To generally prohibit sexting by a person under 21 years of age. **355** (CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB RESISTING ARREST (Schuring, K.) To classify resisting arrest as an offense of violence and to increase **498** the penalties for certain resisting arrest offenses. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) said the legislation came about after a discussion with a police officer in Massillon who said assaults on police officers and instances of resisting arrest are on the rise.

Under the proposal, resisting arrest would result in a first-degree misdemeanor and a fifth-degree felony if an officer is physically harmed.

"We need to show an increased amount of respect for the men and women in blue," he said.

HB THEFT IN OFFICE (Cupp, R.) To expand the increased penalties for theft in office based on the amount of **553** property or services stolen and to include as restitution certain audit costs of the entity that suffered the loss involved in the offense. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Robert Cup (R-Lima) said the measure is designed to bring penalties for theft in office in line with the penalties for theft.

Current law caps theft in office as a third-degree felony.

"This disparity in penalty levels is failing to hold public officials who steal from taxpayers to the highest degree of accountability and must be addressed," he said in sponsor testimony.

Under the proposal, theft in office of more than \$750,000 would qualify as a first-degree felony offense.

SBFELONY SENTENCES (Hackett, B.) To require an additional prison term of 3 to 8 years for an offender **20** who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony offense of violence if the offender is convicted of or pleads **█** guilty to a specification that the victim suffered permanent disabling harm. (**REPORTED-AMENDED**; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Before hearing testimony the panel accepted an amendment offered by Rep. Rezabek to ensure that multiple specifications for the same offense cannot be stacked on top of each other, he said.

Lou Tobin, executive director of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, in proponent testimony called the penalty enhancement of six years in cases in which a felonious assault results in permanent disabling harm to a person under the age of 10 "an appropriate response to this injustice."

"It targets violent criminals who cause very serious injuries to their victims," he said.

However, Mr. Tobin did call on lawmakers to seek a similar bill that provides more broad protections.

"The 18-year-old domestic violence victim and the 75-year-old victim of elder abuse who suffer permanent disabling harm are, after all, no less deserving of this type of justice," he said.

Ms. Clum, however, took an opposing view of the bill. The bill was spurred by a case in which a shaken baby was impaired.

But Ms. Clum said the jury is still out on shaken baby syndrome.

"Some of the country's leading experts on shaken baby syndrome have changed their medical opinion regarding whether the syndrome is over diagnosed or even exists," she said.

SBCRIMINAL LAWS (Eklund, J., Tavares, C.) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by **66** including rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive **█** fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation. (**CONTINUED (See separate story)**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Subscriber's Note: Full testimonies are available on the committee website under April 10.

Federalism & Interstate Relations

HBGUN LAWS (Johnson, T., LaTourette, S.) To assign to the prosecution the burden of disproving a self-**228** defense or related claim, to expand the locations at which a person has no duty to retreat before using force **█** under both civil and criminal law, and to modify the Concealed Handgun Licensing Law regarding a licensee's duty to keep the licensee's hands in plain sight, the penalties for illegally carrying a concealed firearm or improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle, and the posting of warning signs regarding the possession of weapons on specified premises. (**CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony) (See separate story)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

HB CONCEALED WEAPONS (Householder, L., Lanese, L.) To permit law enforcement officers to carry **253** firearms off duty in places otherwise prohibited for concealed handgun licensees. (**CONTINUED-
█ SUBSTITUTE (No testimony)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony)

A substitute version of the bill offered by Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) was accepted.

Among the changes: it allows officers to carry a firearm in a liquor establishment if acting within the scope of their duties; prohibits an establishment serving the public from restricting peace officers from carrying a weapon

on the premises; and allows law enforcement officials to carry in courthouses. (Comp doc)

Subscriber's Note: Full testimonies are available on the committee website under April 10.

Energy & Natural Resources

HB SPORTING LICENSURE (Dever, J., Cera, J.) To make changes to the laws governing hunting and **518** fishing. (**CONTINUED** (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HCRENERGY RESOURCES (Hill, B.) To express support for the importance of Ohio's energy resources and **22** energy infrastructure in furthering Ohio's economic development. (**REPORTED**; 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Brydon Ross, vice president of state affairs of the Consumer Energy Alliance, testified in support.

Mr. Ross said his group, which promotes an "all-of-the-above" energy policy, said the development of new infrastructure is essential to make sure Ohioans can use natural gas as part of their energy supply.

"We are in the early stages of a transformative moment in our nation's history that we at CEA call the shale energy revolution," he said. "This success was not pre-ordained. It took the courage of entrepreneurs, technological innovation by some of our brightest minds, and forwardthinking policies by legislators and regulators to let our country and Ohio's ingenuity thrive." He said, however, that new and improved pipelines are needed to bring the fuel to businesses, homes and marketplaces.

"Despite the misguided attempts by groups to shut down this critical infrastructure, its build-out is integral to Ohio's future success and to keep energy prices low for families, seniors, and small businesses," he said.

Zachary Frymier of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Guy Coviello of the Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber and Kevin Schmidt of the Ohio Cast Metals Association each submitted written testimony in support.

State & Local Government

HB HEALTH DISTRICTS (Brenner, A.) To authorize city and general health districts to use credit cards in **484** accordance with prescribed requirements. (**CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE** (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

The committee accepted a substitute bill from Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) based on discussions between the sponsor, the County Auditors Association and the office of the state auditor.

The bulk of the changes effectively mirror portions of HB484 to another bill (**HB 312**) which passed the House in December and enacts limitations on the use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions.

"The intent is to make the process uniform for all," Rep. Hambley said. "This will ensure general health districts are not carved out into a separate category and will be in compliance with future laws."

Secondly, the substitute bill enables a general health district to name itself.

HB TOWNSHIP LAWS (Carfagna, R.) To make various changes to township law. (**CONTINUED-500** **AMENDED**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) put forth two amendments that were accepted by the committee. The first narrows the legislation to apply only to limited home rule townships - a move that applies the bill to only 32 townships rather than the prior 1,308 townships.

The second change was requested by the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association and removes language that had required townships to designate legal counsel rather than a private citizen to investigate fire chief conduct and removal proceedings.